

FIFTEEN CENTS.

THINGS THAT A NEWCOMER WANTS TO KNOW

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# Western Canadian Dictionary and Phrase-Book

Explaining in Plain English, for the Special Benefit of  
Newcomers, the Meaning of the Most Common  
Canadianisms and Colloquialisms, added to  
which is a Careful Selection of Items of  
General Information Immediately  
Helpful to the Newcomer.

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*Edited by John Sandilands*

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EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY JOHN SANDILANDS

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## The Editor says

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that he has not attempted to make this a dictionary in the strict sense of the word. That is a project of the not far distant future. He has, instead, confined his present attention to the words and phrases unknown in the Old Country and in old lands, expressions which the newcomer is up against the moment he lands in the Dominion, and which heretofore he could only fathom by much questioning and consequent betrayal of the fact that he had just blown in. And, in addition to the selection of words and phrases, there will be found various references of a cyclopædic character to places and institutions of which a slight knowledge may be desired by the newcomer.

To these newcomers, then, the Editor dedicates this first edition, believing that it will satisfy their immediate requirements. A larger and completer edition is, however, being prepared, and the Editor invites criticism of the present production and contributions towards the next. A one-cent postcard can contain quite a number of words or phrases and their meaning. These will be welcomed if addressed to John Sandilands, Canadian Dictionary, 56 Adelaide Street, Winnipeg, Man. In all the professions and trades there are many strange words and expressions, and it is in securing the completest list of these that Dominion-wide collaboration is invited.

# Western Canadian Dictionary and Phrase-Book

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**Acclamation.** A candidate who is unanimously elected to office without the trouble of going to the poll is said to be elected by acclamation.

**Accountant,** a bookkeeper, a clerk. Note that the word clerk, in Canada and the States, is generally used in reference to a shop assistant or counter-man.

**Air line,** a straight line to a given point, a bee line. (See **Bee line**).

**Alberta,** the most western Prairie Province, with Saskatchewan on the east and the Rocky Mountains and British Columbia on the west. Edmonton is its capital, and, after that, its most important city is Calgary. (See **Foothills**).

**Alfalfa,** the common name of lucerne, a valuable, clover-like forage grass.

**All aboard!** the train conductor's call to passengers when the train is about to pull out. At such a moment in the Old Country, the railway officials smilingly invite the first-class passengers and deadheads to "take your seats, gentlemen, please," and bang the doors on the third-class passengers' fingers.

**All-fired,** a general intensive, as **all-fired abuse**; **all-fired racket**, a great noise or disturbance; **all-fired hurry**, a tremendous hurry.

**All in,** in lots of trouble, played his last card, no resources left.

**All kinds of work for you to do** really means "Any amount of work waiting for you," and not various kinds of work as the Canadian expression would suggest to the new-comer.

**All right, all right,** is how an assertion is often wound up, as "I think I can hold down this job all right, all right," "I've just had a bully good dinner all right, all right," etc.

**Almighty dollar,** an American expression indicating the manner in which money is worshipped.

**Americanism,** a phrase or word peculiar to the United States.

**Army.** (See **Militia**).

**Around, about.** **Around one o'clock,** somewhere about one o'clock, before or after. **Around Winnipeg,** in or about Winnipeg.

**Asleep at the switch,** a metaphor implying unwatchfulness or asleep on duty. (See **Switchman**).

**Assembler,** an engineer, or machinist, who assembles, or arranges, the parts of a machine previous to erecting.

**Atlantic Ocean** is referred to as the **Herring Pond**, the **Puddle**, the **Big Drink**, etc.

**Aurora borealis,** northern lights; a phenomenal kind of illumination in the northern part of the heavens, supposed to be due to electro-magnetic influences in the rare upper atmosphere. It occurs at various times, by night and day, and is usually characterized by the appearance of ribbon-like streams of light radiating from the region of the magnetic pole and extending toward the zenith. These phenomena constantly shift their positions and assume a variety of charming colours. Seen in the Old-Country, but more frequently in Canada.

## B

**Backwoods,** a word now only found in old romances and early settlers' letters. The backwoods are now known as the bush, forest fires and the axe of the lumberjack having denuded the land of much of its forest wealth.

**Badger,** an immigrant from Wisconsin, a State where badgers once abounded.

**Bad man,** a colloquialism meaning that the person is a hold-up or a desperado, such a man as really tries to be bad. "A professional fighter or man-killer, but who is sometimes perfectly honest. These men do most of the killing in frontier communities; yet the men who are killed generally deserve their fate. They are used to brawling, are sure shots,



and able to draw their weapon with marvellous quickness. They think nothing of murder, are the terror of their associates, yet are very chary of taking the life of a man of good standing, and will often weaken, and back down, at once if confronted fearlessly. Stockmen have united to put down these dangerous characters, and many localities once infested by bad men are now perfectly law-abiding" (Roosevelt).

**Baggage**, luggage or portable property belonging to a passenger.

**Baggage-master**, the train official who has charge of the luggage, or baggage. **Baggage-check**, a baggage or cloak-room check. **Baggage-room**, where passengers' baggage is temporarily deposited.

**Bagman**, a commercial traveller or drummer. (See **Drummer**).

**Banner year**, the best year, for crops, finance, building and progress generally. According to the Canadian booster, every year is a banner year, and with some truth, because Canada is a great, growing country, with each year better than the last. **Best year ever** is another fashion of describing it.

**Barn**, the stable for horses or cattle. The covered sheds in which the street-cars are sheltered overnight are also called barns.

**Barn-stormers**, theatrical performers who range the country and do their stunts in barns, usually presenting lurid-coloured plays to suit an audience that is not over-critical.

**Barred**. When the edict has gone forth that a certain man cannot be again employed in an establishment he is said to be **barred**.

**Bartender** or **Barkeep**, a barman.

**Baseball**, great game in Canada and the United States; played with a ball and bat on an open field marked with a diamond ninety feet square, known as the infield. The indefinite extension of lines on adjacent sides of this square marks off the outfield from the foul ground. There are nine men in a team.

**Basket Social**, a church or school event towards which individuals or families contribute baskets of eatables and delicacies. Picnics are conducted in the same way.

**Batty**, nutty, dippy, an eccentric person, one who acts the fool.

**Bay State**, Massachusetts.

**Beach-comber**, a settler on some is-

land in the Pacific, usually a runaway seaman or a deserter from a whaler, and living a somewhat piratical life; or a sea-shore loafer, on the look-out for odd jobs.

**Bead**. To draw a bead on him, to attack with firearms, or even with a roasting speech.

**Beano**, or **Beanfeast**, a jollification or a feast.

**Bear State**, Arkansas, though California and Kentucky have also been sometimes given the nickname.

**Beat**, get along. I'll beat, I'll be off. I'll beat off home, I'll go home. When a hobo or tramp is en route to another town, by stolen railway rides or any other means, he is said to be beating his way. **Beat it**, get out, be off.

**Beat the band**. To indicate that strenuous effort is being made, a person will say "We're working to beat the band," or by way of variation, "We're working like a bunch of niggers."

**Beaver**, an amphibious quadruped, with short ears, a blunt nose, small fore feet, large hind feet, and a flat ovate tail. Its fur is of great value.

**Bed-rock**, the solid rock underlying superficial and other formations. To get down to bed-rock, to get to the bottom of matters, to thoroughly understand.

**Bee line**, straight line of route to a given point. Naturalists say that when a bee is well laden, it makes a direct flight for home.

**Beeves**, cattle for slaughter. A word used in the Chicago stockyards and in the cattle market reports.

**Behoooves** means the same as the Old-Country **behooves**, but is nearly always spelt with a double "o."

**Bell-boy**, the youth who would be called a page-boy in the Old-Country. He shows hotel guests to their rooms and thereafter is always on hand to answer the bell and supply the guests with what they ring for.

**Bells**. Getting there with bells on, getting there in time and in good form, or fit and hearty.

**Bender**, a dissipation.

**Bet**, a word used in scores of phrases uttered by some Canadians in the course of conversation, in affirming or contradicting some statement. **You bet** (with emphasis on the pronoun), that's so, you're correct there, no doubt about that, you may be certain of that; or, **Bet you do**, **Bet you**

don't, Bet your life, Bet your boots, Bet your bottom dollar, etc., etc. On your life, or Not on your life, is a variation of some of the above.

**Big Bend State**, Tennessee. The people coming from that State are sometimes called **Mudheads**.

**Biggest toad in the puddle**, the leader or chief, either in connection with politics or the rougher avocations of Western life.

**Big noise**, person or people boasting or rejoicing. "We are keeping quiet at present; the other fellows are the big noise."

**Bit**, the old 12½-cent piece of the United States was called a **bit**, and a defaced 20-cent piece was termed a **long bit**, while the old York shilling of Canada, valued at 12½ cents, was also known as a **bit**.

**Bitten**, stung, taken in. (See **Stung**).

**Blewed**, spent, got rid of, disposed of. A man who has squandered all his money is said to have **blewed it**.

**Blamed**, a euphemism for blessed, blowed, or damned.

**Blanket order**, a wholesale order which, to make up the bulk required to bring it within the scope of special terms, permits the merchant some license to fill up with an assortment of other saleable goods very similar to the kind first specified.

**Blew in**, or **Blew out**, a facetious way of speaking of a person's chance arrival or departure.

**Blizzard**, a fierce wind. Canada's blizzard season is about the month of March.

**Block**, the house property lying between two streets. A person inquiring for a certain street will be told that it is so many blocks further on. Large apartment and office buildings are also called blocks, as, for instance, the MacIntyre Block in Winnipeg, or the Winch Block in Vancouver.

**Blow-hard**, a boaster, a four-flusher. (See **Four-flusher**).

**Blue Hen State**, Delaware. The people from that State are nicknamed **Blue Hen's Chickens**.

**Blue Law State**, Connecticut; also Land of Steady Habits, the latter on account of the excellent morals of the people.

**Blue nose**, a native of Nova Scotia, after a potato of that name which Nova Scotians declare to be the best in the world.

**Blue ruin**, gin. (See **Drink**).

**Bluff**, a high, steep bank. Also a brazen-faced manner of conversation which is intended to over-awe or deceive people. **Bluffer**, a man addicted to the game of bluff. Also used as a verb, to bluff.

**Boarder**, a person who has food, or boards, at a house. (See **Lodger** and **Roomer**).

**Bobolink**, the popular name of the ricebird or redbird, an American singing bird.

**Bogus**, anything pretending to be that which it is not, such as bogus titles.

**Boiled shirt**, or **Biled shirt**, a starched white shirt.

**Bone**, one of the names given to a dollar. Two bones, three bones, and so on. **Throwing the bones**, throwing the dice.

**Bonehead**, a thickhead, all bone and no brains.

**Boneyard**, one of the numerous facetious names given to the cemetery.

**Bonspiel**, a curling tournament.

**Boob**, soft guy, a simpleton, an easy victim for the artful ones. **Booby**, about the same meaning, viz., a weak-minded or idiotic person. **Booby asylum**, a madhouse.

**Boodle**, a more euphonious name for graft.

**Boost**, to puff, to advertise. Nearly all the Western towns have a publicity commissioner or some other official who boosts the place at every opportunity.

**Booze**, a word which was good English in the fourteenth century, coming from the Dutch word "buyzen," to tittle; but which is now more vulgarly used in reference to any kind of intoxicating drink. To **booze** is to drink continually until drunk, or nearly so. **Booze-fighter**, an habitual drinker. **Hit the booze**, started a drinking bout.

**Boss**, foreman, manager, employer. Usually the chief man on a job, the person who does the employing and the firing. (See **Fire**).

**Bottom dollar**, the last dollar. To **bet one's bottom dollar** is to risk all one possesses.

**Boulevard**, a sidewalk which has been flanked by a row of trees.

**Bowie-knife**, a long sheath-knife or dagger used by hunters and others when the West was wilder than it is to-day. So named after Col. James Bowie, the inventor.

**Boys**, a general term to indicate one's companions, colleagues, or employees. "A bunch of the boys" is a common expression.

**Brainstorm**, an attack of madness, and the person so affected is sometimes called a **brainstorm**.

**Brandy smash**, an American drink, made of brandy and crushed ice.

**Breath**. **Change your breath**, advice to change your tone or manner, and usually conveying a threat.

**British Columbia**, the western Maritime Province of the Dominion, with an area variously set down from 375,000 to 395,000 square miles. Vancouver is its most important city and commercial metropolis, and Victoria, the city situated on the south-east of Vancouver Island, is the capital and seat of Government.

**Broken**, an adjective applied to land which has recently been reclaimed from its wild state and prepared for crops.

**Broncho**, a wild, half-broken horse; usually applied to horses that buck and show other signs of vice or make a fight against being mounted and ridden. **Broncho-buster**, a broncho-tamer or breaker-in.

**Brush-pile**, the refuse heap of the prairie farm, consisting of brush-wood that is useless as fuel.

**B.S.** The initials of a very vulgar but common ejaculation, describing a story as lies and nonsense.

**Buck**, another name for a dollar.

**Buckboard**, a four-wheeled vehicle in which elastic boards, extending from axle to axle and upon which the seat rests, take the place of the ordinary springs. Seldom seen in Canada now.

**Buckwheat**, much used in the form of flour for girdle-cakes.

**Buckeye**, an immigrant from Ohio, the Buckeye State.

**Bud**, a child.

**Buggy**, a light vehicle, generally with but one seat, and drawn by one or two horses. It has or has not a top, according to the weather.

**Bughouse**, apparently a noun, but generally used as an adjective, as "He is bughouse," he is mad, or crazy.

**Bulge**, advantage. "Medicine has always the bulge on the faith cure."

**Bull-dose**, to bully, coerce; also sometimes means dosing a person with a false or extravagant tale. The term is of Southern political origin, refer-

ring to a combination of negroes to insure the success of an election by violent or any means. **Bull-doser**, a bully or swaggerer.

**Bullion State**, Missouri. The people are known as Pukes.

**Bully**, good, capital. **Had a bully time**, had a good time. **That's bully**, that's first-class. **Bully for you** is a commendatory exclamation.

**Bummer**, in the early days of California a person who sat or idled about the hotels or saloons; a loafer; one who sponged on his acquaintances. The word is now contracted into **Bum**, and is in very common use in Canada where it means the impccunious man who loafs about hotels and saloons to put himself in the way of free drinks; but it is also used as an adjective to describe anything that is not truly genuine. An unreliable timekeeper is a **bum clock**, an unsatisfactory midday meal a **bum dinner**, a poor cigar a **bum smoke**, an inefficient workman a **bum workman**, a badly-stocked shop a **bum store**, and so on. When things are in that condition, they are said to be "on the bum," and cadging is described as **bumming**.

**Bunch**, a group, a party. **A bunch of the boys**, a lot of the fellows. Have heard the expression, "Working like a bunch of niggers;" and, sometimes, "We're working to beat the band."

**Bunco-steerer**, a swindler, or confidence-trick man. "The bunco-steerer will find you out the morning after you land. He will accost you—very friendly, wonderfully friendly—when you come out of your hotel, by your name and he will remind you—which is most surprising, considering you never set eyes on his face before—how you have dined together in Cincinnati, or it may be Orleans, or perhaps San Francisco, because he finds out where you came from last; and he will shake hands with you; and he will propose a drink; and he will pay for that drink; and presently he will take you somewhere else, among his pals, and he will strip you so clean" (Besant and Rice).

**Bunkum**, false sentiments in speaking or writing. The use of the word is ascribed originally to a member of the United States Congress, Felix Walker, from Buncombe county, North Carolina, who, when his fel-



low members could not understand why he was making a speech, explained that he was merely talking for Buncombe.

**Burg**, a town or village. Probably derived from the Scotch word *burgh* or the English *borough*.

**Bury the hatchet.** (See *Hatchet*).

**Bush**, the forest or timber land, what once on a day was known as the backwoods. (See *Backwoods*).

**Busy.** Get busy, make a start, get going, look lively.

**Butt in**, interfere, put your word in, put your oar in. To butt in usually means to interfere in a matter which does not claim your attention.

### C

**Caboose**, a car, usually having a lookout, attached to a freight or construction train for the use of the conductor and rear brakemen.

**Calculate.** (See *I guess*).

**Calgary**, the largest and most important city in the Province of Alberta, on the main through coast to coast line of the C.P.R., and the grand divisional railway centre between Winnipeg and Vancouver.

**Californian widow**, a married woman whose husband is absent, a grass widow. The expression originated at the time of the Californian gold fever, when many men went West, leaving their wives and families behind them.

**Candy kid**, a term of endearment to a child, presumably that likes candy; also used in reference to a girl or young woman, who also presumably likes candy or sweets.

**Canned**, discharged from employment, fired, sacked. **Canned** also describes a person who is drunk.

**Canuk**, a Canadian.

**Canvas-back**, a kind of duck, greatly valued for the delicacy of its flesh.

**Caribou**, reindeer that are well known in Canada and that also frequent the barren lands of the Arctic regions.

**Carpenter**, a man who is fully qualified to do first-class work in that trade. **Rough carpenter**, one who has less knowledge of the trade, but is entrusted with rough work at a low scale of pay.

**Canoe**, a light boat, narrow in the beam, and propelled by paddles. Once generally used by the Indians, but now much used by all as a pleasure boat on the rivers and lakes.

**Canon**, a term applied to the long and

narrow mountain gorges or deep ravines in the Rocky Mountains.

**Canyon**, same as **Canon**, which see.

**Cayuse**, a broncho or Indian pony, originally bred by the Cayuse Indians.

**Cent**, Canadian coin about the size and value of a British halfpenny.

**Centennial State**, Colorado; the people being sometimes also called **Centennials**.

**Chapel**, composed of Union men employed in a printing office, the chapel being the court at which purely office questions of wages and conditions are first discussed, and chapel meetings are usually held after the jig. (See *Jig*).

**Check**, a bank cheque. Many firms of high standing, however, still use the English spelling of the word.

**Chewing-gum**, in appearance like a lozenge, with a thin shell of sweets, inside of which is the stuff to keep the jaws in motion. It consists of a natural gum resin, as spruce-gum, or an artificial preparation of chiclet, paraffine, etc.

**Chink**, a Chinaman.

**Chinook**, an Indian tribe located in the State of Washington; also a dialect composed of a jargon of Indian, English, French, etc., which was used in intercourse between the various tribes and the white traders in the North-West. **Chinook winds**, warm and pleasant winds, from the west or north, which sometimes prevail on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

**Chores** (natural *ch* sound), daily duties in the home, odd jobs about the house.

**Cinch** (pronounced *sinch*), an easy task, a soft job, something easily accomplished, winning or earning money easily.

**Cincinnati olive**, a pig. **Cincinnati oyster**, a pig's trotter.

**Citizen.** (See *Naturalisation*).

**City**, population qualification, 5000.

**Clam**, certain bivalvular shellfish which are used as food, and notably as a stew known as **Clam Chowder**.

**Clerk**, a store assistant, salesman or counter-man. The man who attends to the books in the counting-room is a bookkeeper or accountant.

**Clock**, a semi-contemptuous way of speaking of a watch, especially an Old-Country article wound up with a key, stem-winders being the prevailing fashion in Canada.

**Club**, the policeman's weapon of defence on occasions when the threatened danger does not call for the use of the revolver. **Clubbing** the crowd, on occasion, has afforded much enjoyment to police in certain American and Canadian cities.

**C.N.R.**, Canadian Northern Railway.

**Coal** is found in Alberta and in British Columbia. According to one authority, British Columbia's coal measures are sufficient to supply the world for centuries; and, according to another authority, "there can never be a fuel famine in Alberta as long as there are miners left to dig coal out of the earth and cars to haul it to the consumers. In hundreds of places it is not necessary to go far down. It can be dug out of the river banks. Almost every river in the province cuts through seams of coal. Alberta is one of the greatest store-houses of coal in the world. Coal-beds extend from the plains to the mountains and comprise many grades, varying from lignite, bituminous, to the best anthracite varieties."

**Cocklebur**, a coarse weed with a prickly fruit.

**Cocktail**, a mysterious concoction of the drinking saloons, the component parts varying in different parts of the Western Hemisphere.

**C.O.D.**, cash on delivery.

**Codland**, Newfoundland.

**Coldest day** that has been registered at the Government Observatory in Winnipeg was 53.5 below zero, on December 24, 1875.

**Cold feet**, a person who suffers from cold feet is one who is easily discouraged, half-hearted, or afraid to push forward an enterprise. A person who is lethargic or devoid of pushfulness is said to suffer from cold feet; as is also the man who moons around instead of going ahead. The expression is used among the sporting fraternity in reference to a man who gets ahead of the game and wants to get away before he loses his "velvet."

**Collins**. (See John Collins).

**Colonist car**, the car in which immigrants make their railway journey to the West, holding the place of third-class carriages on Old-Country lines.

**Conductor**, the official in charge of a passenger train.

**Come-back**, a champion who had relinquished sport, but comes back to the game and makes good. When he fails to succeed, he is a **gone-back**.

**Con man**, the individual who plays the confidence trick. **Con talk**, the confiding stories told by the con man.

**Conservative**, as an adjective, always qualifies the word estimate, the speaker or writer apparently meaning that it is a most accurate and careful estimate. Politically, Conservatives are Imperialists and the party which stands for Canada as an important portion of the British Empire.

**Continental**, a mild swear-word. "I don't care a continental" is the way it is usually uttered.

**Cooke**, a cook or assistant cook in a lumber camp or with a railway construction gang.

**Coon**, abbreviation of **Raccoon** (which see); also a common name for a negro.

**Cord**, a measure of cubic contents, 128 cubic feet, equivalent to a pile 4x4x8 feet. **Cordwood**, wood intended for fuel, and sold by the cord as above.

**Corker**, one not easily beaten. A **Corking good man**, better than the best. A **Corking speech**, beyond contradiction.

**Corneracker State**, Kentucky. **Corn-crackers**, immigrants from Kentucky.

**Corntossle**, a farmer, or other countryman, unused to city life.

**Coulee**, a ravine or deep gully. The names of some Canadian towns include the word, such as Plum Coulee, in Manitoba.

**Cowboy**, the picturesque individual, famed in song and story, who does the herding and other work on a horse or cattle ranch, often called a **cow-puncher**, though the latter name is also given to the men who work on the cattle boats plying between North America and the Old-Country.

**Cowcatcher**, a framework contrivance placed in front of a locomotive for removing obstructions on the railway, such as strayed cattle.

**Cow juice**, milk. **Cow grease**, butter.

**Coyote**, the prairie wolf, a dejected-looking animal a little less than a small collie. They still abound, and are seen even within a few miles of such a city as Winnipeg.

**C.P.R.**, Canadian Pacific Railway.

**Crab-apple**, a wild, sour fruit.

**Crackerjack**, a rare good fellow who excels in every work and accomplishment, and wins the admiration of everyone; also anything that is first-class, as, for instance, a crackerjack programme or a crackerjack game.

**Cracker State**, Georgia. The people are spoken of as **Crackers**.

**Crap**, or **Craps**, a game with dice, notoriously a gambler's infatuation.

**Crazy**, the word most commonly used in describing an eccentric person. If you complain about the quality or cooking of your food, the Canadian Hebe will possibly tell you that **you are crazy**.

**Creek**, a small river, an inlet, a recess or small bay in the shore of the sea or of a river.

**Creole State**, Louisiana.

**Cuspidor**, a spittoon, which in Canadian hotels is quite an ornamental utensil.

**Cute**, neat, natty, something novel and smart.

**Cut it out**, be done with it, give it up, cease it. A reformed man, referring to his late evil habits will say, "I have cut them out;" a person referring to an undesirable acquaintance says, "I've cut him out; I've got no more use for him;" a merchant referring to an abandoned department of his business will say, "I have cut it out." The words are used in connection with almost anything that has been abandoned or given up.

**Cuts no ice**, a common metaphor meaning that some speech or effort has no effect or leaves no impression. **Cuts no grass** has a similar meaning.

**Cutter**. (See **Sleigh**).

## D

**Dad**, frequently used when addressing an elderly man, as "Hello, Dad!"

**Dago**, an Italian.

**Dandy**, tip top, swell, up to the mark. If a Canadian has anything to sell it is quite certain, in his estimation, to be a dandy.

**Deadhead**, a person who occupies a theatre seat on free admission or who travels by train or boat on a free pass.

**Dead men**, a term for whiskey or beer bottles after they are emptied of their contents.

**Deck**, a pack of cards.

**Deport**, to banish from Canada. An

undesirable immigrant may be sent back to his country of origin, at the expense of the shipping company which carried him westward, any time up till he has been three years in the Dominion. Drunkenness and loss of intellect are the chief reasons for deportation.

**Depot**, a railway station.

**Devil-dodger**, a sky pilot, a parson.

**D.G.S.**, Dominion Government Survey, the work of marking off townships, sections, half-sections, and quarter-sections of Dominion land.

**Diamond State**, Delaware.

**Dicker**, to bargain, barter, quibble, play with. Generally applied to a deal in small articles.

**Dinky**, small, neat, natty, cute.

**Dime**, a ten-cent piece.

**Dippy**, weak in the head, nutty, silly.

**Distances**. Quebec to Liverpool (by Belle Isle route) 2625 miles, Quebec to Liverpool (by Cape Race route) 2875 miles, Quebec to Glasgow (by Cape Race route) 2563 miles, Quebec to Winnipeg 1596 miles.

**Dive**, an immoral house. To describe such a place, the word is more frequently used than it is in England.

**Dog-gone**, a form of mild swearing, with little or no meaning.

**Dog's nose**, a mixture of beer and gin.

**Dog train**, the picturesque cavalcade which accompanies Arctic travellers and traders, viz., a number of sleds, each drawn by a string of dogs.

**Dollar**, variously known as a simoleon, a one-spot, a toadskin, a green-back, a plunk, a bone, a buck, a bean, etc. A five-dollar bill is sometimes called a **V**.

**Domion Day**, July 1, a Dominion holiday commemorating the confederation of the provinces.

**Dope**, any drug surreptitiously dropped into a man's drink, usually preliminary to being robbed. The word is also applied to reading matter or a tale of tiresome and foolish nature. To **dope** a person is to drug him, and a man who lives in a state of chronic alcoholism is termed a **dope**.

**Dough**, a vulgar name for money or wealth.

**Doughnut**, a small round cake, made of flour, eggs, and sugar, and boiled in lard.

**Doukhobors**, a religious body of immigrants who have put Socialism into everyday practice, paying all earnings into the common fund and sharing everything in common.



**Down and out**, utterly defeated or completely beggared; cast down and knocked out of the game or out of former associations.

**Down East**, an indefinite expression used by Westerners in referring to some place in the East, though it usually means somewhere in Ontario.

**Down the line**. When a man pays a visit to the immoral quarter of the town, he is said to have been **down the line**.

**Downtown**, the business section of a town or city.

**Down to the ground**, an American expression; as, "That suits me **down to the ground**."

**Doxology works**, a church, chapel or mission hall.

**Drink**. Among the numerous names given to intoxicants of the various kinds are—appetizer, aqua vitae, ball of fire, belly vengeance, blue ruin, bosom friend, bottled earthquake, breakey-leg, bucket, bumper, bung juice, cheerer, cinder, digester, dope, drain, eye-opener, facer, fiz, flip, forty-rod lightning, gargle, grapple the rails, hard stuff, heeltap, hell broth, invigorator, John Barleycorn, kill-the-beggar, liquid fire, lotion, nightcap, nip, old man's milk, pill, poison, refresher, rot-gut, rouser, settler, shout, slight sensation, smile, something, soother, soothing syrup, soul destroyer, sparkler, stimulant, stingo, strip-me-naked, swig, taste, tanglefoot, tippie, toothful, etc. **Invitations to imbibe** may be held out in any one of the following forms—Let us stimulate! What'll you have? Nominate your pizen! Will you irrigate? Let's drive another nail! What's your medicine? Let's liquor up! Will you try a smile? Let's see a man about a dog! Try a little Indian! etc. **Responses** to an invitation are likely to be made in words somewhat as follows—Here's how! Here's at you! Don't care if I do! I'm that! Yes, siree! Anything to oblige! I'm with you! Count me in! Count me as one of the boys!

**Drink hearty** a convivial invitation when the cup is at the lip.

**Drummer**, a commercial traveller or outside salesman.

**Drunk**. The village drunk, or town drunk, is the title jocularly given to some individual who has qualified, or is apparently qualifying, for that distinction.

**Dry**, the condition of a town in which Prohibition law is in force, where no alcoholic drinks are permitted to enter. (See **Wet**).

**Dry goods**, merchandise, men's and women's apparel, bed and table linen, cloth, blankets, curtains, carpets, etc.

**D.T.**, a popular abbreviation of delirium tremens.

**Dude**, a fop. There are not many in the West, but occasionally one blows in from London or New York.

**Dug-out**, a hole in the ground, covered with rude framework and sod, used as a temporary dwelling, for storage, or (in some countries) as a cyclone-cellar. While the homesteader is erecting his shack a dug-out is very probably his place of habitation.

**Dump**, the scrap-heap, a suppositious last resting-place for old locomotives, men who are down and out, etc., etc.

## E

**Eagle**, a United States gold coin of the value of ten dollars.

**Ear-flap**, that portion of a cap which may be turned downwards to protect the ears against frost.

**Eat**, to breakfast, dine, or sup, or, to have a meal. When about to have a meal, a Canadian will say "I'm going to eat"; or, in referring to the house at which he boards, he will say "I eat there." Again, meals are sometimes referred to as *eats*, and occasionally one may see a cafe with the signboard "Good eats here."

**Edmonton**, capital of the Province of Alberta, and the trade-distributing centre of a district which stretches northward to the Arctic circle. Many new-comers make the mistake of supposing that Calgary, the more central and more advertised city, is the capital of the Province, but Edmonton holds on to the honour of seat of Government.

**Elevator**. (See **Grain elevator**).

**Eliminate**, one of the pet words of the Canadian reporter and public speaker, and used in the most extraordinary places, usually, however, meaning "leave out," "cut out," or "drop."

**Empire State**, New York. The people are known as **Knickerbockers**.

**Ence or ense**. Words with these terminations, such as *defence* and *expense*, are correctly spelled just as they are in the Old-Country, though, through carelessness, the wrong



spellings have got into the newspapers until they have become almost the custom.

**E pluribus unum**, the motto of the United States, meaning **One of many**, or **Many in one**.

**Eskimo**, or **Esquimaux**, (pl. **Eskimos**, or **Esquimaux**), the tribes inhabiting the extreme northern shores and islands of Canada. **Eskimo dog**, a wolf-like animal, a native of the northern regions of Canada and Siberia, much used for drawing sleighs or sledges. The **Eskimo sledge-dog** is also called a **Husky**.

**Esquimaux**. (See **Eskimo**).

**Et al.**, contraction for the Latin words **et alii**, frequently seen in law reports and legal documents.

**Express**, parcel delivery service. The carriage of parcels is conducted by **express** companies having close business relationship with the railway companies.

**Eye-Opener**, a characteristically Western journal published at Calgary and circulating all over Canada. Edited by R. C. Edwards, it is chiefly famous for the audacious fashion in which it scores friends and foes alike, and for its screamingly funny contributions to Western wit and humour.

## F

**Fall**, autumn, the fall of the year.

**Fans**, sports promoters or enthusiasts; critical and expert followers of the game.

**Fan-tan**, a gambling game notorious among the Chinese. It is played with cards or dominoes.

**Feet**. **Got there with both feet**, got there in a hurry, bent on business, or in a determined frame of mind. **Put both feet down**, made his determination clear, would stand for no humbug.

**Fest**, a suffix for many words, as **Talkfest**, a conference, or a feast of words; **Gamefest**, a sports tournament; **Songfest**, a feast of song, etc., etc.

**Fierce**, describes anything from a person's objectionable conduct to a violent storm. "**It's fierce**" is applied to any unsatisfactory state of affairs.

**Fill the bill**, supply all that is wanted or expected. **Can fill the bill** are the words with which a Canadian will assure a client, a customer, a prospective employer or others, that he can do the job right and on time.

**Fire-bug**, an incendiary, a mischievous person who wilfully sets fire to property.

**Fired**, discharged from a situation; equivalent to the Old-Country expression, "got the sack."

**Fire water**, the name which Indians formerly gave to whiskey and other intoxicating drink. Nowadays the Indian knows the names of the different poisons almost as well as the white man.

**Flag-station**, a spot at which there is no railway agent regularly on duty, but at which trains drop or take up passengers on signal of a flag.

**Flat rate**, the same price all round.

**Flim-flam**, an idle, worthless story; hot air.

**Foothills**. The natural features of Alberta combine the beauties of prairie and mountain scenery. For three hundred miles open and wooded plains stretch out in vast level reaches, and then climb over softly rounded mounds that grow higher and sharper till they break into jagged points and serried ridges and at last rest upon the base of the Rocky Mountains. These rounded hills that join the mountains to the prairies are called the foothills. They are so distinctive and unique a feature of the country that Alberta is known as the Foothills Province.

**F.O.B.**, free on board. Exporters on **F. O. B.** terms are liable for all charges on board steamer at port of shipment. Consignees pay sea freight and other charges on arrival of goods.

**Fool**, foolish. Freely used as an adjective, as **fool play**, **fool exhibition**, **fool conduct**, etc.

**Footwear**. (See **Rubbers**, **Overshoes**, **Moccasins**). **Snow-shoes** (which see) are not articles of footwear, but used in the pastime of snowshoeing.

**Fort Garry**, a trading post and settlers' depot on the western bank of the Red River, at its junction with the Assiniboine, built after the union of the rival fur companies in 1821. A stronger fort, with stone walls, bastions, and port-holes, was put up in 1853. All that remains of this historic structure is a gateway, now one of the sights of Winnipeg.

**Forty-rod**, or **Forty-rod lightning**, whiskey so fiery that it is calculated to kill at forty rods distance, or on sight.

**Four-flusher**, a boaster, a blow-hard. (See **Blow-hard**.)

**Frame house**, or **dwelling**, one built entirely of wood, or lumber, but usually, of course, with a brick or stone foundation.

**Frame-up**, usually a dodge in the political game, though the expression is used in reference to any plot or shady scheme. **Framed up**, worked up. The words are also used in reference to a person's manner of tackling a job, when it may be said "He **framed up** well," or badly, as the case may be.

**Franchise**, a right or privilege, a charter; as, a street-railway franchise.

**Freeze up**. What is known as the **Freeze up** is that period of the year when frost, snow and ice have put an end to nearly all outdoor work and closed up the rivers for navigation. Since 1888 the earliest freeze up of the Red River at Winnipeg was November 3, in 1910, and the latest opening on April 23, in 1904. The latest freeze up of the Red River was December 3, 1899, and the earliest opening March 20, 1910.

**Freight**, goods in transit. **Freight train**, a goods train; also **freight boat**, **freight wagon**, etc.

**Fresh**, nasty, saucy, arrogant, quarrelsome. "Don't get fresh with the boys: you only make them stubborn."

**Friseo**, the short name for San Francisco.

**Frost-bite**. New-comers' first experience of this is likely to be on the ears, nose, the cheeks, or the chin. The immediate common remedy is rubbing the affected spot with snow, and thereafter consulting a wise old-timer. Prompt action is necessary, but on no account apply hot water or go up against the stove.

**Funerals**. During the winter months, when the ground is frozen, the first portion of the ceremony is the placing of the coffined remains in the cemetery morgue. The final interment takes place in the spring, when the ground has softened sufficiently to permit the digging of graves.

## G

**Gait**, speed or pace at which an individual or an animal is going. A storekeeper advertises that his store is going at a **great gait**, meaning that he is doing great business.

**Galician** (pronounced **Galeeehlan**), actually an immigrant from the north-eastern part of Austria; but generally immigrants from any part of Central Europe are dubbed as **Galicians**. Excavators and navvies are usually **Galicians**.

**Galoot**, an awkward, uncouth youth. The word is used in both a friendly and unfriendly sense.

**Garden State**, Kansas; also sometimes spoken of as the **Squatter State**.

**Garnishee**, a legal process by which wages or money owing to a debtor must not be entirely paid over to him until he has satisfied his creditors.

**Gay**, quarrelsome, overbearing, displaying temper. The word **fresh** is used in the same sense. "Lord, help me at my humble job today. Th' foreman thinks I'm nothin' but a dog; An' with that tongue he's always gettin' gay—Say, I could lay him flatter than a log."

**Gee**, a common exclamation somewhat equivalent to the English "By Jove."

**Gee whiz**, a variation of the above.

**Geese** known to Canadians are of several varieties. The **Wavy** or **Snow Goose** and the **Honker** or **Canadian Goose** are the best-known species. There is also the **Hutchings Goose** or **small Canadian Goose**, marked just like the **Honker**, and the **small Grey Goose** or **Laughing Goose**. All these, with the exception of the **Honker**, are Arctic birds.

**Geewhilkens**, an exclamation of surprise.

**General Delivery**, the **Poste Restante**, or department in a post office where immigrants or visitors may call for their letters. Thus, if John Smith were emigrating to Winnipeg, and had no address in that city, he should instruct his friends to address him "John Smith, General Delivery, Winnipeg, Manitoba."

**Get-away**, an escape; as "His get-away was complete, and the police are without a clue as to his whereabouts."

**Gets there**, attains his object. **Gets there every time**, refers to a person who succeeds in all his undertakings.

**Getting wise**. A loafing or tricky workman who suspects that he is being found out will say "the boss is getting wise."

**Gilt-edged**, first-class, best of its kind.

**Gilt-edge securities**, safe and profitable stocks, shares, or investments.

**Ginger up**, wake up, stir yourself, get moving, look lively.

**Goat**, someone to fix the blame on. From **Scapegoat**, one made to bear the blame for others.

**Gob-stick**, a silver spoon or fork.

**God's Own Country**, a name frequently given to the Dominion by patriotic Canadians and settlers.

**Gold brick**, a very promising speculation or investment which afterwards turns out to be a fraud.

**Gold-bug**, a man of wealth, a millionaire.

**Golden State**, California.

**Gold mine**, any profitable investment, from a fish and chips shop to a speculation involving millions.

**Good** is used in a variety of ways. To **Make good** is to do well or come up to expectations in one's employment; **I feel good**, I feel well; **Looks good**, it looks all right; **Sounds good**, sounds all right (sometimes a doubtful compliment); and **Good and strong**, good and early, good and plenty, etc., etc.

**Goods**, the article wanted. A Canadian or American who would imply that he has what you want, the cash to pay for an article, the qualifications for a situation, or anything and everything in request, will say "I've got the goods," or "I can deliver the goods."

**Good time**, an enjoyable experience. A man who has been having a riotous time, and has possibly lost or "blewed" his wad, is also derisively told that he has had a good time.

**Gopher**, the name given to several breeds of burrowing animals which infest the North-West. These little quadrupeds, which honeycomb the earth, have large cheek pouches extending from the mouth to the shoulders, incisors protruding beyond the lips, and broad, mole-like forefeet.

**Gopher State**, Minnesota.

**Gospel factory**, an irreverent term for a church or chapel.

**Go the whole pile**, to put all one's bank on a solitary and despairing chance; a phrase which had its origin in the piles of gold dust used as circulating medium by gambling miners in the Western gold days.

**Grade**, a prepared road-bed, high in the middle and gently sloping to a gutter or ditch at each side.

**Grader**, a person who grades or prepares the new roadways; a powerful

mechanical device, like a plough, to assist in grading or road-making.

**Graft**, bribery and corruption; money or benefits extorted or received by a person dressed in a little brief authority. **Grafter**, a person who uses his position to fill his purse or who sells posts and employment to the highest bidder. "Graft means exactly what you choose to make it. A salary for sinecure is graft. A wide-open expense account is graft. Anything or everything that pertains to money or perquisites not accounted for by the stern value-received rule is graft."

**Grain elevator**, the high, towering erection for the storage of grain seen near most of the railway stations in the wheat-growing provinces. The largest elevator in the world is that of the Canadian Northern Railway Company at Port Arthur, Ontario, with a capacity of 7,500,000 bushels.

**Granite State**, New Hampshire.

**Grass widow**, a married woman whose husband is absent. **Grass widower** is also spoken of in reference to the husband when the wife is absent on duty or on a holiday.

**Greased lightning**, terrific speed.

**Greaser**, a Mexican, or other Spanish-American; sometimes called a **Coffee-cooler**, his favorite beverage being cold coffee.

**Greenback**, a dollar. The paper money issued in the United States during the Civil War was known as **greenbacks**. The term was originally applied only to the notes for small amounts, which were backed with green, but ultimately, in both Canada and the States, the one word represented bills of all values.

**Green Mountain State**, Vermont.

**Gridiron**, the United States flag, the Stars and Stripes; also **Gridiron** and **Doughboys**. The **Goose and Gridiron** refers to the Eagle in conjunction with the flag. The words are, however, more in use on board ship than on land.

**Grit**, strength and perseverance. Politically a Grit is a Liberal.

**Grouch**, a persistent grumbler, one who is never satisfied. **Has a grouch on**, is in a bad temper. **Grouchy**, fault-finding.

**Ground floor**. To **get in on the ground floor** is to join in a speculation on equal terms with the promoters of the scheme.

**G.T.P.**, Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

**Guest**. All visitors or residents in an



hotel are guests, and register by signing their names in the guest-book in the office, a department usually fixed opposite the main entrance.

**Guff**, windy talk designed to deceive; an incredulous story.

**Gulf State**, Florida.

**Gum tree**. Up a gum tree, in an awkward fix, or "all up with him."

**Gun**, a general name for pistols, revolvers and rifles. The larger weapon is usually referred to as a shot-gun.

**Gun men**, those who actually do, or are supposed, to carry revolvers.

**Gunning**, shooting. **Going out gunning**, going out on a shooting expedition.

**Guy**. A wise guy, one who poses as the possessor of superior wisdom, and usually reckoned as a fool.

## H

**Hack**, a cab. But hacks are going out of fashion as rapidly in Canada as they are in the Old-Country.

**Hail**, as it is sometimes known in Canada, is a force to be reckoned with. Hailstorms are occasionally so destructive that the insurance companies charge a special rate for havoc caused thereby.

**Half-breed**, half-blooded, usually the progeny of a white father and an Indian or Esquimaux mother. The early French settlers were particularly addicted to these unions; thus the half-breeds of Canada, to this day, are nearly all French spoken.

**Hallowe'en**, the eve of All-Hallows, and observed in many Canadian homes just as it is in the Old-Country; but more frequently it is made the occasion for all kinds of pranks, innocent or malicious, against individuals and property, rendering it something akin to a Guy Fawkes celebration.

**Handle**, to deal in. A wholesaler or retailer, in speaking of the articles he trades in, will say he handles these things.

**Happened along**, happened to come that way.

**Happy hunting ground**, the future abode; from the Indian's idea of heaven.

**Has-been**, a person of the down-and-out class, one who boasts of a glorious past but is no good now. Such a person may sometimes be described as a Never-was.

**Hatchet**. To bury the hatchet, to

cease strife, or to let bye-gones be bye-gones. To dig up the hatchet, to recall the cause of strife or to renew the quarrel. In the war-like days of the Indian tribes, certain symbolic ceremonies were connected with the war-hatchet or tomahawk, the burying of the weapon being symbolical of a declaration of peace, and the digging up being a symbol that hostilities were again to commence.

**Hawk-eye State**, Iowa; and the people are known as Hawk-eyes.

**Heel-taps**, leavings, liquor in the bottom of a glass.

**Highball**, whiskey or brandy diluted with soda-water, ginger ale or some other effervescing liquid.

**Highbinder**, a political conspirator or blackmailer.

**Heart to heart talk**, straight speaking. "Had a heart to heart talk with him," gave him a bit of my mind.

**Heeler**, a political worker, one who is at the heel of a political boss.

**Hefty**, goodly, weighty, bulky; as, a hefty wad of dollar bills.

**Hike**, to move, to shift elsewhere.

**Hit the booze**, taken to drinking. (See **Booze**).

**H.M.C.S.**, His Majesty's Canadian Ship. The letters may be seen on the cap-bands of seamen on the Canadian warships.

**Homicide**, the killing of one man by another. **Homicidal**, murderous.

**Hob**. Playing hob with anything, such as a business, is simply playing ducks and drakes with it, as an Englishman would say; ruining it.

**Hobo**, a tramp, a vagrant, a man of the type of Weary Willie and Tired Tim.

**Hockey**, a game played with a club curved at the lower end, by two sides, each side striving to drive a block or disc, called the puck, into that part of the playing-field marked off as their opponents' goal.

**Hold down**, keep, retain. To hold down a job is to be able to hold or keep it, being able to fulfil the duties.

**Hold-up**, robbing by violence. A dishonest storekeeper or a swindling acquaintance is also described as a hold-up.

**Holidays**. The public statutory holidays in Canada are—Sundays, New Year's Day, the Epiphany, Good Friday, the Ascension, All Saints' Day, Conception Day, Easter Mon-



day, Ash Wednesday, Christmas Day, the birthday (or day fixed by proclamation for celebration of birthday) of reigning Sovereign, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labor Day (the first Monday of September), and any day appointed by proclamation for a general fast or thanksgiving.

**Homesteader**, a man who takes up and settles on a free grant of land. Any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter-section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the District. Entry by proxy may be made at the office of any Local Agent of Dominion Lands (not sub-agent), on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader. Duties—Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least eighty acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister. In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price—\$3 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate 50 acres extra. A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$3 per acre. Duties—must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate 50 acres and erect a house worth \$200. (See **Land**).

**Honest Injun!** pledge of sincerity. Equivalent to "on my honour."

**Honker**, a certain species of goose, so called from its peculiar cry. (See **Goose**).

**Hoodoo**, something that brings bad luck; the opposite of mascot.

**Hoosier**, an immigrant coming from the State of Indiana, or a native of that State.

**Horn**, a drink of spirits. A Canadian sport will say "Come and have a horn."

**Hornswoggle**, to hoodwink, swindle, humbug, bamboozle. One sometimes hears the exclamation, "May I be eternally hornswoggled!"

**Hot air**, windy talk, a speech with nothing in it, statements which are not believed, promises which will not be fulfilled. **Hot air artist**, one who excels in the hot air stunt. (See **Stunt**).

**Hottest day** ever registered in Winnipeg was 100.5, on June 23, 1900.

**Housekeeping**. Where rooms are advertised for **light housekeeping**, facilities are provided for preparing meagre meals, but laundry and heavy work is expected to be sent out.

**House of Commons**, the Lower Chamber of the Dominion Parliament. The Senate is the Upper Chamber.

**How are they coming?** Another of the peculiar ways of asking how you are doing or how you are getting along.

**Hub**, or **Hubby**, a husband.

**Hudson's Bay Company**, pioneer fur traders of Canada with great territorial possessions and now becoming famous as proprietors of large departmental stores.

**Hudsonian**, relating to Henry Hudson, the discoverer, or the bay which bears his name, or the Hudson Bay Company.

**Hum**, though much used in the Old Country is a word of American origin, and means "to make things lively." To make a business **hum** is to stir it up and keep it bounding on successfully.

**Hump**, move, get along. **Hump yourself**, get out, or get on your journey.

**Hunch**, a sure thing, a scheme in which there is no fear of failure.

**Hurrah**, a jubilation, celebration, a meeting or social to celebrate some event, such as a victory in sport.

**Husky**. (See **Eskimo dog**).

**Hustle**, hurry up, look lively. **Hustler**, a rusher, an energetic worker.

**Hypphenated American**, an Irish-American, a German-American, or other naturalized citizen of the States.

# I

**Igloo**, the snow house of an Eskimo; also the excavation which a seal makes in the snow over its breathing hole, for the protection of its young.

**I guess, I reckon, I calculate**, are expressions imported from the States. and in frequent use in Canada. **Calculate** is common in the Western States, as "I calculate you are a stranger here;" New Englanders use the word **guess**; and **reckon** is of Virginian origin.

**Improved Britisher**, a person born in the Old-Country, but of long residence in Canada. Generally so described as a naive compliment to the Dominion.

**Improved farm**, cultivated or partly cultivated, and having some of the necessary buildings or barns on it. (See **Wild farm**).

**Indian**, one of the aborigines of North America, so named by Columbus and others because they believed that the new lands discovered by them were part of the Indies. **Indian reserve**, a piece of territory specially reserved as a settlement for Indians and their families. There are many such reserves scattered throughout Canada.

**Inning**, an innings at cricket or other games. The final "s" is not used in Canada and the States.

**Irrigation**, engineering devices for watering farm lands in seasons of drought. The semi-arid belt of Southern Alberta has special need for irrigation, and several wealthy companies have undertaken the work. The largest of these companies is the Canadian Pacific Railway. This company has undertaken the construction of the largest irrigation system in America. About one-third of the system has been finished and the lands placed on the market at satisfactory and attractive terms. The tract covers over 3,000,000 acres extending from the city of Calgary in a strip forty miles wide in the Bow River Valley for 150 miles. The company provides ready-made farms for settlers and maintains demonstration farms for their instruction. Through the administration department of the Canadian Pacific Railway the company breaks, seeds and fences the land for the buyer in advance of his settling upon it and in many other ways promotes the welfare of the new settler, "not from philanthropic motives but purely as a business enterprise," beneficial to the settler, the company and the province.

**I should smile, I should say so**. Sometimes it is varied in the words **I should say**. (Another importation from the States).

**I. T. U.**, International Typographical Union, which has some 60,000 members in Canada, the United States, Porto Rico, and the Philippine Islands.

**It was to laugh**, then we had to laugh, or, then it was time to laugh; a remark made on telling a joke or relating some ludicrous incident.

**Ivories**, a person's teeth, either real or false.

## J

**Jag**. Has a jag on, has a tank, is drinking heavily.

**Jig**, in printing and certain other trades, means a day's work, or that period between starting and leaving off. A **Lobster-jig** is the spell of duty overlapping the day jig and the night jig, commencing in the afternoon and finishing about midnight.

**Job**. **Putting a job over on him**, playing a trick or a swindle on a person.

**John Chinaman**, a Chinaman, a Chink.

**John Collins**, a morning reviver composed of soda water, gin, sugar, lemon and ice.

**Joint**, an opium den, a gambling house, or a low-class saloon; though a house, cafe, or similar place may be called a joint, and it may be a good joint or a bad joint.

**Joker**, besides being the perpetrator of the joke, is also the joke itself.

**Jollied**, chaffed out of some possession or betrayed into some admission. Another form of the confidence trick.

**Josh**, nonsense, unbelievable talk, a humbugging story.

**Joy ride**, a pleasure drive, very often a reckless one.

**Jump** is used in many expressions uttered in Canada. To **jump a job** is to leave without notice, and usually when work is proceeding; **jump the line** (or boundary) stealing across the international border line (or boundary) between Canada and the States, evading the customs and immigration regulations, etc. **Bounty jumper**, in the United States, was a man who, during the Civil War, would receive the bounty, join his regiment, and then decamp, to reappear in another State, to go

through the same performance, in some cases many times over.

**Jumpers.** (See **Overalls**).

**Junk**, second-hand goods, truck, rubbish. **Junk-shop**, a second-hand goods store.

## K

**Keeps.** Young Canuks play marbles for keeps, and the grown-ups sometimes decide the disputed possession of an article by tossing for keeps.

**Kentucky colonel**, a bogus colonel. After the American Civil War, it is alleged, nearly every man in Kentucky was either a captain, a colonel or a general.

**Keystone State**, Pennsylvania, from the circumstance that when the names of the original thirteen States were arranged archwise in their geographical order, Pennsylvania occupied the position in the centre.

**Kibosh.** To put the kibosh on is to wind up, to stop, to silence, or to put the extinguisher on.

**Kick**, to complain, protest, grumble. **Kicker**, a persistent grumbler, or one who frequently kicks in defence of his rights.

**Kid**, a child.

**King's** (or **Queen's**) **English**, the English language correctly written or spoken.

**Knickerbockers**, people from the State of New York, the Empire State.

**Knocked up**, in the Old-Country, means tired, jaded, done up, or laid aside with illness, but in Canada the words have a meaning which precludes their use in the presence of females.

**Knocker**, objector; a person habitually disposed to oppose or deprecate new movements, proposals or schemes; one who decries another person's work or efforts.

## L

**Lacrosse**, a game which originated among the Indians and is now popular among Canadians. It is played with a ball and a crosse, or bat, somewhat similar in appearance to a tennis racquet. The object of the game is to drive or carry the ball with the crosse between and past two goalposts at the opposite ends of the field of play.

**Lady of the Snows**, a name bestowed upon Canada by Rudyard Kipling. **God's Own Country** is what the patriotic Canadian more frequently calls it.

**Lake State**, Michigan. The people from Michigan are known as **Wolverines**.

**Lam**, hit, strike, lay out. "Every time I go to school, The teacher lams me with a rule. Makes no difference if I am a fool; She's got to quit lamin' me with a rule!"

**Land**, in the Dominion of Canada, is laid off in square townships, each containing thirty-six sections of as nearly one square mile as the convergence of meridians permits. A section is divided into four quarter-sections, containing 160 acres each.

**Land guide**, a man appointed to guide homestead seekers to a suitable location.

**Land-hunger**, an obsession, often amounting to a disease, which sometimes attacks the successful settler. "Land, and still more land" is the chief aim and object of the life of a person so afflicted.

**Land Titles Office**, an important establishment in Canadian cities where records of all land transactions are kept and where settlers and homesteaders receive their certificates, patents or deeds for land they acquire.

**Lean-to**, an outhouse attached to the main structure, usually a back-kitchen or a wood-shed.

**Legislative Assembly**, the official name of the parliaments of the provinces, except those of Quebec and Nova Scotia, which are officially known as Legislative Councils.

**Lemon.** Handed him a lemon, handed him something sour, as, for instance, a snub, a disappointment; discouragement when reward was expected. "Handed him a raw onion" is another way of expressing it.

**Limit**, the extreme. He's the limit, he's past comprehension, or almost unendurable.

**Livery**, a place where horses, carriages, automobiles, etc., may be hired. **Liveryman**, the man who runs the place.

**Line**, advice, guidance, to point out the path to take. "Gave him a line," showed him how to proceed.

**Loaned**, lent.

**Lodger**, a person who resides in the house, having both bed and board. (See **Boarder** and **Roomer**).

**Log**, the felled tree, after it has been



denuded of branches and prepared for transportation to the lumber mill.

**Log cabin**, a hut constructed of logs laid one upon another, with the interstices blocked up with odd bits of lumber, earth, moss, plaster, etc.

**Lone-Star State**, Texas, which has a single star in the centre of the flag. People of Texas are sometimes dubbed Beefheads.

**Long shot**, a hazardous guess.

**Lot**, the piece of land, from the front street to the back lane, upon which the town-dweller has his house.

**Lumber**, timber, wood, in its unmanufactured or manufactured state.

**Lumberman**, a merchant who deals in timber, doors, sashes, etc., for building purposes. The **Lumberjack** is the man who has to face the elements and cut down the trees and prepare them for despatching to the timber mills or into the towns to be used as fuel. (See **Cordwood**).

**Lynch**, to punish without the forms of law or trial, as sometimes practised by an American mob, who hang the miscreant to the nearest tree and then riddle his body with bullets. John Lynch, a Virginian farmer, who so acted, was the person whose name has become associated with this form of summary retribution.

## M

**Mail**, letters going or coming by post. Here's some mail for you, here are some letters for you. **Mail** those letters, post those letters.

**Mail order**, orders for goods to be sent by post or express service. (See **Express**).

**Manitoba**, the most easterly of the three Prairie Provinces. Winnipeg the capital and the largest city in Canada west of Lake Superior, is about midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. (See **Fort Garry** and **Winnipeg**.)

**Maple**, a tree of great sentimental value to Canadians. It comes of the soapberry family and embraces many kinds, some of which furnish valuable lumber for carpentry and cabinet work, and one, *acer saccharinum*, yields the maple syrup and maple sugar of commerce.

**Masher**, a dude, a fop, a would-be lady-killer.

**Meal tickets** may be purchased in most of the cafes and boarding

houses, and these provide twenty-one meals at the price of twenty. Each ticket shows twenty-one small squares, and, instead of paying cash for each meal, the boarder has a hole punched in one of these squares. "Speaking of hard luck," remarked United States Senator Klutch, "I had some hard luck once during my early days. I had just invested my last five dollars in a meal ticket, and as I started down the street a gust of wind tore the ticket from my hand. A lumberjack was passing, wearing heavy, hobnailed boots, and he stepped on my ticket and punched out four dollars eighty-five!"

**Meat market**, or **Meat store**, a butcher's shop, the latter term being applied to the slightly better-class establishments.

**Medicine**, a prisoner's sentence or punishment; a favourite word of the police court reporter.

**Melon-cutting** is the dividing up of extra company profits; the process by which directors and officials enrich themselves at the expense of the shareholders and the public.

**Mennonites**, a religious body of immigrants who live in communities, and whose creed is a curious mixture of Socialism and Individualism.

**Metis**, the offspring of French-Canadian and Indian parentage.

**Merger**, combine or union of two or more business concerns; also used as a verb, as "We propose to merger the whole cement trade."

**Militia**, the army of Canada, which is an organisation somewhat similar to the Volunteers of the Old-Country. A permanent staff controls the militia, and there is also a small permanent force of artillery and Strathcona's Horse, the latter stationed at Winnipeg.

**Mill**, the tenth of a cent, a calculation used in the assessing of rates and taxes. **Milling**, grinding the corn.

**Missouri**. "I'm from Missouri, equivalent to saying "I want to know the reason why," which is alleged to be a characteristic of immigrants from that State. The people of the State of Missouri are also known as **Pukes**.

**Mixer**, a man who gets among company, who makes himself popular. To make a business hum, a firm sometimes advertises for a good mixer.



**Moccasin**, the Indian shoe or cover for the feet, made of deerskin or other soft leather, without a stiff sole, and often highly ornamented on the upper part.

**Molasses**, sugar syrup, treacle.

**Money**. For rough or approximate calculations, the Canadian cent may be reckoned as equal to the British halfpenny; the quarter, or 25-cent piece, as one shilling; a dollar as four shillings; two-and-a-half dollars as ten shillings; and five dollars as one pound and sixpence.

**Moose**, the largest of the deer species of animals, growing sometimes to the height of 17 hands and attaining a weight of 1,200 pounds. "It has palmated horns, with a short, thick neck, and an upright mane of a light brown colour. The eyes are small, the ears a foot long, very broad and slouching; the upper lip is square and hangs over the lower one. The European variety of the moose is known as the elk."

**Mosey**, (or **Moosey**), to poke around ferreting out information.

**Mosquito**, a gnat-like insect, having, in the female, a black proboscis which pierces the flesh of men and animals, and which also forms a syphon through which the blood flows. They are commonly known as **skeeters**, and to keep them out of the houses in the hot summer days screen doors and screen windows are fitted up, thus allowing the ordinary doors and windows to remain open.

**Move**. Get a move on, get busy, make a start, look lively.

**M.P.**, member of the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa. **M.P.P.**, member of a Provincial Parliament; or, sometimes, **M.L.A.**, member of the Provincial Legislative Assembly.

**Mucilage**. One must not speak of gum in Canada; it is always mucilage. (See **Chewing gum**).

**Mud**, land, real estate. A Canadian publication has "Money and Mud" as a heading for its financial and real estate page.

**Mudcat State**, Mississippi.

**Municipality**, a rural district, village, town or city which has been incorporated and has a government or council. Generally, however, by a municipality an incorporated rural municipality is referred to.

**Muskeg**, a marshy piece of land covered with moss or other thick growths and often impassable.

**Musk-ox**, a hollow-horned ruminant, belonging to the Arctic regions, which combines some of the characteristics of the sheep and the ox. "Both sexes are horned, the large horns being united at the skull, but deflected downward at each side of the head. Its hair is long, fine and brown, shaggy about the neck and shoulders, with yellowish wool beneath. The limbs are stout and short. It exhales a musky effluvia, whence its name."

**Muskrat**, found in great numbers wherever there is water. This animal is an important fur-bearer, two millions of its skins (representing the capture of the entire North-West) being shipped to London every year by the Hudson's Bay Company.

**Mustang**, a horse descendant of Spanish stock introduced into America in the sixteenth century; the former wild horse of the Far West, now practically domesticated.

**My!** a feminine exclamation equivalent to the **Oh!** of the Old-Country. "**My**, but don't these flowers smell awful sweet!"

## N

**National Park** (The Canadian), a national reservation of 5732 square miles, embracing parts of the valleys of the Bow, Spray and Cascade Rivers, Lake Minnewanka and several mountain ranges, and beyond the "Divide," the Yoho Valley, and the country to the west and south of it, is the largest park in the world, being nearly half as large again as the famous Yellowstone Park in the United States. Banff, on the C.P.R., is the most convenient railway station.

**Naturalization**. A British subject qualifies for a vote after he has been one year in Canada and a resident for three months in the constituency in which he claims a vote. A foreign immigrant may neutralize as a Canadian after three years' residence in the Dominion.

**Nearby**, near bye, close to, adjacent.

**Never-again club**, a purely imaginary confraternity, the members of which are supposed to have taken a solemn oath never to touch intoxicants again. These usually announce their membership when feeling the effects of a long spree.

**New chum**, a new arrival, a new-comer, an expression mostly used in the mining camps.

**New-comer**, a new arrival in the country. When a new-comer is saluted by a bum with the words "Hullo, old-timer," he may be certain that the bum is tapping him for a free drink or is going to "put one over on him."

**Newsie**, generally a street newspaper seller, but the vendors of papers, books, cigars, etc., on trains are also known as Newsies.

**Nickel**, a 5-cent piece.

**Nigger**, a negro. New-comers should note negroes and Indians are two very distinct and different races.

**Nope**, no.

**North-West Territories** comprise all British territories in North America and all islands adjacent thereto not included within any province or the Yukon Territory and the colony of Newfoundland.

**Nothing doing**, the boss's reply to applicants when he is fully staffed. It does not mean, however, that the man need not apply again. Canadian bosses usually try a person who seems determined to get on the job. They assume that such a man will make good. (See **Good**).

**Notions**, smallwares, haberdashery. The notions counter is a popular department of the large stores.

**Not too bad**, a characteristic Canadian reply to an inquiry regarding one's health or circumstances. Literally it means, "Oh, about fair," or "Can't complain."

**Notation**, a footnote or memorandum, a remembrancer. A word mostly used in business.

**No use for it**, want to have nothing to do with it, done with it. The words are also used in reference to individuals. In throwing over an old or undesirable acquaintance, a Canadian will say, "I've no use for him."

**Nowhere**, not in the reckoning, or so far behind as not to be worth counting.

**Nutty**, batty, dippy, wrong in the head.

# O

**Office**, the business department of an hotel, usually just inside the main entrance, where visitors, or guests, as they are called, register their names on arrival.

**Oil**. To strike oil (or ile), to meet with a stroke of good luck.

**O.K.**, signifying that the documents or printed matter on which the letters have been written are **Oil Korrect**, i.e., all correct. This is an Americanism, and said to have been originally marked on an important document by a high-standing official to signify that all was right and proper.

**Old**, an adjective frequently used by the easy-going or good-natured Canadian. He will say, "Any old thing will do for me," "Give me any old thing for dinner," "Any old place will make a bedroom for me." In a different humour he might say, "Any old thing (or story, or lie) won't do for me."

**Old Glory**, a pet name for the Stars and Stripes, the flag of the United States.

**Old-head**, an old man. In a discussion, the wise guys and the elderly men in the company may be addressed as **Old heads**.

**Old man**, the chief, the boss. The head of an establishment, if he is elderly, is referred to by his subordinates as the **Old man**.

**Old-timer**, actually an early settler or old citizen, but the ingratiating bum will often salute the new-comer as **old-timer**, when the drinks are on the new-comer every time.

**One on him**. (See **Put one over on him**).

**Opium joint**, an opium den.

**O.T.**, when chalked opposite a train number on a depot time-board, means that the incoming train is **on time**, or running according to schedule.

**On time**, when referring to an individual, may mean that he is always prompt or on hand when he is wanted.

**Outfit**. Some Canadians will use anything but the proper name for an object, so **outfit** sometimes fits in when speaking of a house, store, cafe, or even an individual.

**Out of sight** may be given as a reply to an inquiry as to the state of one's health, suggesting that the person is in such good form that he could leap up into the clouds, out of sight. A story is told of a Scotsman who heard the reply for the first time, and determined to work it off at the earliest opportunity. He, however, met too suddenly an Irish friend,

who asked after his health, and the nearest he could get to the Canadian reply was, "Oh, I can't be seen." The Irishman marvelled at the new-found Canadianism, and in his turn tried to store it up for the first favourable opportunity. But his memory was as defective as that of the Scotsman, and when next a friend asked him about the condition of his health all that he could remember by way of reply was, "Och, be jabers, Oi'm hidin'!"

**Overalls**, or jumpers, rough canvas trousers which reach well up the chest and back and are fastened over the shoulders with attached braces, used by outdoor workers and those doing rough or dirty work in the warehouses and factories. A Canadian idea worth copying in the Old-Country.

**Overshoes**, rubber shoes with felt uppers, worn over the ordinary leather boots. They keep the feet warm and also prevent slipping on the ice. (See **Rubbers**).

P

**Pack ice**, ice in a broken, floating body.

**Panhandle State**, West Virginia.

**Panned out**. Panned out well, showed good result; panned out badly, something that worked out as a failure.

**Pannikin**, a little mug or a small pan.

**Papoose**, a child (Indian).

**Pard**, a partner, a chum; a word reminiscent of the gold-mining camps.

**Patent**, has the same meaning as in the Old-Country, but is frequently pronounced as though there were two t's in the middle of the word.

**Patrol**, a policeman on street duty.

**Patrol wagon**, police wagon or automobile, in place of the Old-Country's Black Maria.

**Paupers**, as known in the Old-Country, are unknown in Canada. There are many charitable societies to help the really deserving poor, but no workhouses to harbour the loafers and won't-works.

**Peanuts**, popular among Canadian youths when roasted or made up with pop-corn or candy, or as a relish, food, or confection. **Peanut politics**, petty politics, especially when of a vindictive or personal nature.

**Pecker**. The innocent Old-Country expression, "Keep your pecker up,"

must never be used in Canada, where it has a very vulgar meaning.

**Peeled**. Keep your eyes peeled, keep your eyes open, be on the watch, don't go to sleep.

**Peg**, a drink of intoxicants. "Will you have a peg?" is how they put it.

**Peg**. Occasionally Winnipeg is spoken of as the Peg.

**Pelican State**, Louisiana, where pelicans are common.

**Pelt**, the skin of a beast with the hair on it; a raw hide.

**Penitentiary**, a gaol.

**Permit**, permission, or a license. In the building trade, a permit is required before constructing.

**Pesky**, annoying, troublesome, vexatious.

**Philadelphia lawyer**, a limb of the law alleged to be the very essence of cuteness. "Enough to puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer" is equivalent to saying that the matter under discussion is enough to puzzle the sharpest man in the world.

**Pickaninny**, a young child is thus styled by the negroes in the Southern States. The word is now completely naturalized in Canada.

**Pickled**, intoxicated; has a swell "bun" on.

**Pigeon (or Pidgin) English**, the jargon used for intercourse between the Chinese immigrants and the English-speaking races.

**Pigeon's milk**, an imaginary fluid for which boys and simpletons are frequently sent on the 1st of April.

**Pike**, a scared person, one afraid to risk his money, an invertebrate.

**Piker**, one who hits the pike (or highway) and hikes out of the town. Probably the latter word comes from England, the land of turnpikes, which are, as yet, almost unknown in Western Canada.

**Pile**, a fortune made by an individual, and of just that amount which satisfies his ambitions or permits him to take a house in Easy Street.

**Pilferage**, theft of goods in transit, or leakage by petty pilfering.

**Pine-tree State**, Maine, where there are extensive pine forests. Maine is also known as the **Lumber State**.

**Pips**, the marks, no matter of what suit, on playing cards. The ace card is sometimes called a single pip.

**Plow**, the Canadian and American way of spelling **Plough**.

**Plunk**, a dollar. Two plunks, two dollars, and so on.



**Plurality**, a majority, a word much used at election times.

**Poison**, drink. **Nominate your poison**, name your drink.

**Police magistrate**, a stipendiary.

**Porkopolis**, Chicago.

**Poorhouse**. None in Canada. (See **Pauper**.)

**Portage**, a break in a line of water-communication over which boats, goods, etc., must be carried by land, as from one lake to another, or along the banks of rivers at a point where there are rapids or a water-fall.

**Postcards** sent to correspondents in Canada or the United States require only a one-cent stamp. Postcards for Great Britain, Newfoundland, and countries in the Postal Union require a two-cent stamp, as in the case of a letter.

**Pound**, the place in which stray horses, cattle, etc., are housed until claimed or sold by the authorities.

**Pow-wow**, a consultation, a conference. Originally an Indian term.

**Prairie**, uncultivated land. Only about one-tenth of Canada's Last Great West is yet under cultivation, and only about one-half is yet under survey.

**Prairie antelope**, the pronghorn, which inhabits the western parts of North America, frequenting the plains in summer and the mountains in winter, and is sometimes called the Rocky Mountain antelope. It is one of the few hollow-horned ruminants and the only living one in which the horny branch is sheathed.

**Prairie chicken**, a bird of the grouse species. Also known as the **prairie hen**, **prairie fowl**, **prairie grouse**.

**Prairie dew**, whiskey, or mountain dew.

**Prairie madness**, the melancholia which attacks the lonely homesteader.

**Prairie oyster** (or cocktail), a raw yolk dropped into spirits.

**Prairie schooner**, an immigrant covered-in wagon or cart, in which, in the old days, long journeys were made across Western Canada.

**Prairie State**, Illinois.

**Prayer-book**, a pack of cards.

**Preaching-shop**, a church or chapel.

**Pre-emption**, the act or right of purchasing before others. In certain districts a homesteader may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead at a cheap rate. (See **Homesteader**.)

**Proposition**, a favourite word in Canada to describe a business undertaking or a new scheme. The newcomer who has an abundance of cash is soon waylaid by agents who can put a first-class business **proposition** in his way. "A dandy **proposition**" is a common description.

**Proven**, proved, a survival of the Scotch form of the word.

**Puck**, the hard rubber disc used in the game of hockey in place of a ball.

**Pull**, power, advantage, hold. To have a **pull** on a person is to have some power or influence over him. A minister who attracted a large congregation was said to have a **pulling manner**, a well-dressed store window was said to be a good **puller**, and a well-constructed advertisement was said to have great **pulling qualities**.

**Pull out**. A train does not "start" or "leave;" it pulls out. Thus a person may say, "I **pull out** at 4.45," and when inquiring as to the time of departure of a train, the inquirer is told that it "**pulls out**" at a certain time.

**Pulp**, minced timber, or transformed into an almost liquid state for the manufacture of paper.

**Pumpkin**, a kind of melon, and with much of the shape of a melon, but with depressed ends. It is, in some parts, much used as food, prepared in a variety of ways, as in the favourite pumpkin-pie, and also fed to stock where it is over-plentiful.

**Pumpkin**, an immigrant from Boston, so named from the abundance of pumpkins raised and eaten in that part of the States.

**Pump-sucker**, a water drinker, or teetotaler.

**Punk**, old, stale, poor, insipid.

**Puts on no dog**, puts on no airs, puts on no side.

**Put one over on him**, catching him with the latest puzzling by-word or smart saying, giving him a Roland for his Oliver, giving him the worst of it, caught him napping. A Winnipeg newspaper recently put up the heading, "Put one over on Bernard Shaw," and under it had the following story: "There is at least one woman in the United Kingdom with the reputation of having on an occasion gone Bernard Shaw one better. This particular lady had sent Shaw an invitation to dinner. The reply she received was this: 'Don't



you know that I don't accept dinner invitations from ladies?' A few days later Shaw obtained his answer. 'The invitation you received was a mistake. Don't you know, Mr. Shaw, that I issue invitations to gentlemen only?'

**Q**

**Quaker City**, Philadelphia, so called from the fact that William Penn, its founder, belonged to the Society of Friends.

**Quaker's bargain**, a Yea or Nay transaction, take it or leave it.

**Quantum**, as much as you want or ought to have. **Quantum suff.**, enough.

**Quarter**, 25-cent piece, quarter of a dollar. The quarter-dollar bill, now rarely seen, is known as a **Shin-plaster**.

**Quarter section**, 160 acres, more or less, the portion of land granted to the homesteader. (See **Homestead**).

**Queen City**, Cincinnati; also the Paris of America.

**Queen City of the Lakes**, Buffalo.

**Queen City of the Mississippi**, St. Louis.

**Quencher**, a drink. Also **Modest quencher**, anything short of a big drink, and frequently the beginning of a big drunk.

**Queer the game**, upset the game, spoil it, make it a farce or disreputable.

**Quick and nimble**, a jeering reference to leisurely movement; more like a bear than a squirrel.

**Quiet**, to appease, to settle. Thus a payment may be made to **quiet** a claim or an appeal may be made to the Legislature to **quiet** (or settle) the title to land the possession of which has been long in dispute.

**Quill-driver**, a penman, an author or a journalist. **Hero of the quill**, a distinguished writer.

**Quitter**, a man who does not remain long on one job, one who is frequently changing. (See **Sticker**).

**R**

**Racket**, confusion, disorder, clamour, or noisy merriment.

**Raccoon**, an animal about the size of a small fox the greyish-brown fur of which is used for the make-up of coats and hats.

**Raft**, lumber strongly braced up to float in one mass down a river. Rafts on Canadian waterways are sometimes of enormous size.

**Rag**, a newspaper, as described by its opponents or supporters of the opposing organ.

**Rah-rah!** the shout of the college boys when out for the day.

**Railroad**, to drive, to jam through, to get rid of in a hurry. At a recent trial in Canada it was said that there was a plot to **railroad** a certain individual into the insane asylum.

**Rainy day**, hard times; whence to **lay up for a rainy day**, to provide against bad times.

**Raise**, to rear children, crops, cattle, etc. **Raise Cain**, to create trouble or a rumpus.

**Ranch**, a farm or range (originally **Rancho**), on which horses, cattle, and all kinds of livestock, even chickens, are reared. A chicken ranch, when located near a city, is quite a profitable proposition. The immense horse and cattle ranches (or ranges) of the Far West still, however, form one of the picturesque features of Canadian enterprise.

**Range**. (See **Ranch**).

**Rat**, a blackleg, a scab, a man accepting less than the trade-union scale of pay or working when his mates have struck.

**Rather**, an emphatic affirmative; Yes, I should say so.

**Rattle**, to confuse, to harass or worry a nervous person in the performance of a difficult game or duty.

**Raw**, annoyed, sore, mad about something that has happened.

**Real estate**, land, sometimes called mud. **Real estate agent**, a land agent.

**Reckon**. (See **I guess**).

**Red**, familiar curtailed name of the Red River.

**Red Indian**, or **Redskin**, an Indian, so called because of the tinge of red in his complexion.

**Red Light District**, that part of a Canadian city in which immorality abounds; also known as the **cluster** or **hookshops**.

**Red River cart**, a primitive vehicle much used in the early days of settlement in the West. It was constructed entirely of wood, even to the wheels and axles, and, on the trail, emitted a screeching noise that was heard (so old-timers say) long before the cart itself came into sight.

**Re-directed letters** do not require any additional postage if re-directed and handed back to the mail-carrier or

postman at the time of delivery or as soon thereafter as possible, unless, of course, it is re-directed to a place or country where a higher rate of postage is charged.

**Reeve**, the chief official in a rural municipality or in a village, a dignity akin to mayor.

**Regardless**, a single word that is used to indicate that a person or an undertaking is got up regardless of cost.

**Regina**, formerly the territorial capital and now the capital of the Province of Saskatchewan.

**Register**. When a visitor, or guest, as he is called, enters his name in the register book of an hotel, he is said to have registered.

**Riel (Louis)**, a French half-breed, leader of the Red River Rebellion of 1869-70. After that episode he was permitted to escape to the States, but returned to Canada to take part in the rising in Saskatchewan in 1885. He was executed at Regina on November 16, 1885.

**Right** is one of the words which frequently finds a place in conversation and suggests right on the spot, as **Right here**, **Right there**, **Right now**, **Right away**, etc.

**Ripsaw**, a carpenter's handsaw, about 30 inches long, having three to three and one-half teeth per inch, and used for sawing or ripping down with the grain only.

**R.L.H.**, letters that are sometimes marked on a "rush" order to indicate the speed at which the order must be attended to. Their meaning is generally understood.

**R.N.W.M.P.**, Royal North - West Mounted Police, the semi-military body of men who have charge of the outposts of empire in North-Western Canada.

**Roast**, to expose, to abuse, to rate, to tell a person off. A **roasting**, a severe rating or castigation in a speech.

**Rockies**, the Rocky Mountains, the famous range which stretches from north to south of British Columbia and down through some of the Western States.

**Roll**, or **Wad**, a person's present supply of dollar bills or paper money. **Roll him** is to rob him of his money.

**Roomer**, a lodger who has living accommodation in a house and gets his food elsewhere. (See **Boarder** and **Lodger**).

**Roorback**, a false story spread about for purposes of political intrigue. The word had its origin in the United States from a flagrant story once issued in an extract from the Travels of Baron **Roorback**.

**Rooter**, one who heartily applauds his own side or his favourite players, when a match or game is in progress.

**Rotunda**, the hall or main entrance and waiting-room of a railway depot or an hotel.

**Rough carpenter**. (See **Carpenter**).

**Rot-gut**, drink, of the particularly putrid variety. (See **Drink**).

**Rubberneck**, the name given by females to men who turn their heads round to ogle them as they pass on the street. Persons who stretch their necks to inquire into other people's affairs are also described as **rubber-necks**.

**Rubbers**, shoes worn over the ordinary boots, what are known as goloshes in the Old-Country. (See **Overshoes**).

**Rube**, a farmer or an unsophisticated person in from the country who may be expected to be an easy mark for the city tough or thug.

**Runners**, the strips of steel attached to a woodwork frame which take the place of the wheels on a vehicle in winter and thus convert the vehicle into a sleigh.

**Rush orders**, orders to be completed with the utmost despatch, and to take precedence of all ordinary orders coming into a warehouse or factory. Some customers, however, are so accustomed to mark their orders as **rush orders** that traders sometimes fail to be impressed by the demand for haste. **R.L.H.**, the initials of a profane expression which means an awful rush.

**Rustle**, steal; but generally used in connection with cattle-stealing. So a **rustler** is the name for a cattle thief.

**Rye**, the commonest and most vitriolic of Canadian and American whiskeys.

## S

**Sakes**, a mild exclamation, like **shucks** and others.

**Salesman**, a commercial traveller, a drummer, a store counter-man, or a man who canvasses real estate.

**Sam**. To stand **Sam** is to pay for refreshment or drink, or indeed any-

thing. The term originated in the letters U.S. on the knapsacks of the U.S. soldiers, and which were jocularly said to be the initials of Uncle Sam (the Government), the big paymaster.

**Saskatchewan**, the great wheat Province, situated between Manitoba on the east and Alberta on the west. Singular to remark, Edinburgh, Scotland, is farther north than any of the settled parts of Saskatchewan. Regina is the capital.

**Sawbones**, a surgeon.

**Scab**, a blackleg, a man who takes the place of a trade union worker out on strike or locked out

**Seads**, money or dollar bills.

**Scalp**, a part of the skin and hair of the head cut off by an enemy. In their warlike days, the Indians regarded each scalp as a trophy.

**Scared**, alarmed, frightened, upset. A word used on the smallest pretext.

**Schedule** (sometimes pronounced **Skedule**), a time-table of trains, sports, business proceedings, etc.

**Scoot**, to run, decamp, skedaddle.

**Scored**, adversely criticised, condemned. When a certain Act of Parliament was severely criticised, an Opposition newspaper came out with the heading "Government Legislation Scored."

**Scrap**, a fight of the promiscuous or impromptu kind.

**Screen doors**, **screen windows**, additional house fixtures put in during the heat of summer, to permit of ordinary doors and windows being left open and to keep out the mosquitoes, or skeeters.

**Scrub**, the wild undergrowth of the prairie, or unbroken land. (See **Broken**).

**Search me** (with the emphasis on the second word), I don't know, I can't say. Literally, search me all over for the information you require. **You have me there** or **You have me beat** are variations of the expression.

**Section**, 640 acres of land. Each section is divided into four quarter sections, containing 160 acres each. (See **Land**.)

**Senate**, the Upper Chamber of the Dominion Parliament, with functions somewhat similar to the British House of Lords. The Lower Chamber is known as the House of Commons.

**Set them up**, set up the drinks, pay for the round.

**Settler**, an immigrant who permanently makes his home in Canada. **Settlers' effects** include a host of things which the immigrant is allowed to convey into the Dominion duty free and at a cheap rate of transportation.

**Shack**, a wooden hut, the first modest little dwelling of the homesteader, an erection usually of only one apartment.

**Shanghai**, to drug a seaman and get him on board a ship that is about to sail and is short of hands.

**Shanty**, a rough, temporary habitation, a degree less pretentious than a shack. (See **Shack**).

**Shavings**, a carpenter or rough carpenter. (See **Carpenter**).

**Shebang**, a hut, shanty, shack.

**Sheepskin**, much used in the make-up of lumberjacks' and other outside workers' winter jackets.

**Shilling**. The facetious Canadian will sometimes call the quarter-dollar piece a shilling.

**Shine**, or **Shoe-shine**, having one's boots polished. The words are also used to denote the person who does the work, and the room or shop in which a person gets a **shoe-shine** is also called a **shoe-shine**. A very bald-headed man went into a barber shop and, plumping himself down in the chair, said, "Hair cut!" The barber looked at him for a moment and then replied, "Why, man, you don't need a hair-cut; what you want is a shine."

**Shin-plaster**, a 25-cent or quarter-dollar note, a curiosity not often seen nowadays.

**Shingles**, thin wooden boards which take the place of slates for roofing purposes in Canada. Thus, pedestrians in Western cities, in the height of a gale, run no risk of being scalped by a falling slate.

**Shipping**. When goods are sent or despatched out of town, either by rail or boat, they are said to be shipped, and the department of a warehouse which packs them up and despatches them is described as the shipping department.

**Shooting-iron**, a revolver, a gun.

**Shot-gun**, the larger weapon, used for sport or killing game. (See **Gun**).

**Shucks**, a common and innocent exclamation which may mean anything from "dearie me!" to "Holy Moses!"

**Shy**, short, scarce. **Shy on funds**,



short of cash, hard up. A few months shy of 20, a few months short of 20 years of age.

**Sidestepping**, wandering from the argument, evading the question.

**Sidetracked**, knocked out of the running, defeated by adverse circumstances or powerful opposition, pushed on to the scrap-heap.

**Sidewalk**, that part of both sides of the street reserved for foot passengers, that part known as the pavement in the Old-Country.

**Silver State**, Nevada, which is also known as the **Sage-hen State**.

**Simoleon**, a dollar. (See **Dollar** for other names).

**Sirree**, sir. Yes, sirree, and No, sirree, are commonly used in conversation.

**Six-shooter**, a six-chambered revolver, though a revolver of any number of chambers may be so described at times.

**Skedaddle**, to make a hasty departure, to bolt, to scamper off, to scoot.

**Skeered**, scared, frightened.

**Skeeter**, a mosquito. (See **Mosquito**).

**Skiddoo**, get off, get out, make tracks.

**Sky Pilot**, a parson, one who points life's mariners to mansions in the skies.

**Skyscraper**, a very lofty building.

**Skyscraper man**, the name given to the workman who performs the perilous work of erecting the steel framework of the skyscraper.

**Sleigh**, a vehicle mounted on runners, for the conveyance of individuals or merchandise. All sorts are to be seen in Canada in the dead of winter, from the handsome, picturesque, private family outfit to the heavy, lumbering freight-sleigh of the contractor or the railway companies. A low sleigh is known as a **cutter**, and a high sleigh is a **speeder**.

**Slewed**, drunk, or intoxicated. Originally a seaman's word, derived from the way in which a ship sometimes tacks, gliding off at another angle. The course generally pursued by a drunken, or **slewed**, man is something like that of a ship.

**Slick**, quick, expert, clever, smart.

**Slim**, tricky.

**Slough**, a marshy place, a quagmire, a hole full of mud or mire.

**Suag**, any unsuspected obstacle in a river or elsewhere.

**Snap**, a cinch, something worth securing or easily secured. Real estate agents are fond of describing their "good things" as snaps.

**Snort**, a drink. The sporting Canadian asks his friend, "Will you have a snort?"

**Snow**, frozen or crystallized vapor.

**Snow-blindness**, temporary blindness caused by the glare of sunlight reflected from the snow, and sometimes caused merely by gazing too long on the clean white snow, without relieving the eyes by changing the object of vision for something dark.

**Snow-bound**, snowed-up, or imprisoned by snow, no uncommon experience in Canada either at home or when travelling on the railway.

**Snow-broth**, snow and water mixed; hence very cold liquor.

**Snow-bunting**, a finch of the Arctic regions which comes south during the winter; a snowbird.

**Snow-cock**, a snow-partridge.

**Snowdrift**, a bank of snow drifted or piled up by the wind.

**Snow-eater**, a Chinook or warm wind which rapidly melts the snow.

**Snow fence**, an embankment of snow raised on the windward side of a railway or other road as some protection against a snowstorm.

**Snow-flea**, a leaping insect, found on the snow in such numbers as to become a pest in some parts.

**Snow-line**, the line on a mountain slope above which there is snow all the year round.

**Snow-plow**, a plough-like arrangement on a large scale for clearing away the snow from roads, railways, etc.

**Snow-shoes**, a shoe, or racket-shaped arrangement, worn to prevent the feet from sinking into the snow.

**Snowshoeing** is a popular sport, and many people acquire great speed in walking or running with the curious footgear.

**Soke**, to rob, fleece, cheat; to drive a dishonest bargain.

**Solicitor**, a canvasser for goods or publications.

**Some** is used in many ways that strike the new-comer as distinctly amusing. **That's some congregation** will refer to a church that is packed to the doors; **That's some hat** will refer to the enormous creation with which a lady's head is adorned; **That's some horse**, referring to a particularly fine animal; **That's going some** may mean great speed or excellence of workmanship, or it may even be used in reference to the

speed at which a person races to his ruin; **That's some cigar** is a cigar to be admired; and the simple words **And then some** are often added as an afterthought, to suggest that there is any amount of excellence expected or in reserve. "Some walkers these" was an inscription under a photographic group of pedestrians.

**Sons of England**, a benefit society, applicants for membership of which are supposed to be of English birth or parentage.

**Sore**, annoyed, riled, nasty, vexed. Don't get sore, don't get nasty, don't lose your temper. Was sore about it, felt annoyed over the matter.

**Sore-head**, a person who sees trouble and wickedness in everything.

**Soused**, loaded up with drink.

**Space**, or **Space work**, the accepted contributions of promiscuous reporters or men not actually on the staff or payroll; similar to the penny-a-liner work, or lineage, in the Old-Country.

**Speeder**. (See **Sleigh**).

**'Spiel**, contraction for **Bonspiel**, a curling tournament.

**Spiel**, spout, preach, lecture, a derisive term used in reference to a wordy admonition.

**Spondulies**, money, the ready, the wherewithal to pay.

**Spot**. Dollar bills or notes are sometimes spoken of as a one-spot, two-spot, and so on. This word, however, is most frequently applied in reference to the five-dollar bill, which is a five-spot.

**Spotted dog**, plum pudding.

**Spread-eagle**, or **Spread-eagleism**, the patriotic brag of an American.

**Spruce**, trim, tidy, lively. **Spruce up**, buck up, liven yourself, get dressed.

**Sprung**, intoxicated; sometimes, also, the word is used in reference to a person who is alleged to be eccentric or off his balance.

**Spur track**, a railway siding or a short branch line which runs into factory or warehouse premises.

**Square deal**, term often used in reference to a straight transaction. When men go out on strike in Canada their cry is that they want a **square deal**; or in any dispute both parties will protest that they are open for a **square deal**. A straightforward and avowedly honest transaction is said to be **on the square**; and a **raw deal** is an unfair or dishonest deal.

**Square meal**, an abundant meal, enough to satisfy the appetite.

**Squat**, to take up a homestead or settle down on some new land.

**Squaw**, an Indian woman. **Squawman**, a white man married to an Indian woman.

**Stag party**, a gathering of men only. A party consisting entirely of women is called a **tabby party**.

**Stand for**, agree to, or put up with. Thus in Canada a person will say **I won't stand for it** in a case in which, in the Old-Country, one would say **I won't stand it**.

**Stars and Stripes**, the United States Flag, the Star-spangled Banner, the Gridiron. **Stars and Bars**, the Confederate Flag during the Civil War, 1861-65.

**Steeple story**, a stretch of the imagination. (See **Tall story**).

**Steerer**. (See **Bunco-steerer**).

**Stetson**, originally a soft felt hat of cowboy style, but now the general name for all men's walking-out hats, Stetson being the name of the hat-making firm of North America whose goods are par excellence and always the fashion. The man of fashion in Canada speaks of his Stetson in the same way that a well-dressed man in the Old-Country speaks of his Lincoln & Bennett or his Christy.

**Stick around**, wait about, hang around, or loaf around. The Canadian sport will **stick around** in the expectation of meeting the boys and having a good time.

**Sticker**, a person who holds on to his work or post. (See **Quitter**).

**Stiff**, a corpse, or about as valueless as a corpse. Frequently used in reference to players who are of no use in the game.

**Stockyards**, the railway sidings or enclosures where import and export of cattle is conducted.

**Stoop**, the porch at the front or side of the house; a landing with steps leading down to the street or garden.

**Stop-off** or **Stop-over privileges**, an arrangement made with the ticket agent to break a railway journey at some place where the passenger wishes to make a short halt.

**Store**, a shop, any retail establishment.

**Stork**. On the occasion of a birth, the **Stork** is said to have flown over or visited the happy home. Thus, when a new baby is about to arrive,

it is said that a visit from the **Stork** is expected.

**Stove**. Many kinds and sizes are seen in Canada, but that most associated with home life and early days is the barrel-shaped article, (with its stove-pipe passing up through the ceiling and through the bed-chamber above, to heat that apartment), round which the family gathers on the cold evenings.

**Straight**, a phrase peculiar to drinkers, and similar to the English word neat, unmixed with water.

**Strathconas**, the general name for officers and men of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), a popular corps of the Canadian permanent force.

**Streamers**, the Aurora Borealis, Northern Lights.

**Street railway**, tram-lines. **Street car**, the cars run on the street railway. The same are known in the Old-Country as tramcars.

**Strike**, reach, or arrive. "I hope to **strike** Vancouver within five days after leaving Montreal."

**Stuck upon himself**, full of self-conceit and confidence.

**Stung**, bitten, sold, taken in. **Severely stung**, got what he didn't bargain for.

**Stunt**, something done. **A good stunt**, something smart. **A new stunt**, a new idea.

**Subdivision**. Each section of surveyed Canadian land (i.e., 640 acres) is deemed to be divided into sixteen 40-acre areas, which are known as legal subdivisions; and these subdivisions are again divided into lots, which are exploited by the proprietors or real estate agents as building lots.

**Sucker**, the victim of the sharp or swindler, a soft mark for crooks and dishonest people. "'Tis music in the gambler's ear to hear the sucker squeal."

**Sucker State**, Illinois.

**Sulky**, a one-horse, two-wheeled vehicle, with a seat for one person only. Used now only in trotting matches.

**Sundae**, an ice-cream with fruit to add flavour to it.

**Sun-dog**, a parhelion, mock sun, appearing in the form of a bright light near the sun, and sometimes having colours like the rainbow. Sometimes there are several, appearing at the same height above the horizon as the

true sun. Their cause is certain modifications which light undergoes when it falls on the crystals of ice or minute particles that constitute clouds.

**Sundowner**, a tramp, an overlander, an overland-mailer; a man who blows in to some Western camp about sunset, asking for work, which he knows cannot be obtained at that hour, but who is usually accommodated with rest and refreshment. Sometimes called a **Whaler**, from his habit of cruising about the country.

**Sun in the eyes**, too much drink. A person who is under the influence of drink is said to have the **sun in his eyes** or to have been **standing too long in the sun**.

**Sure**, a common expression, meaning "Of course" or "Certainly," and used much the same as it is used in Ireland, though Canadians will resent the suggestion that the expression is of Irish origin. **Sure thing** means "That's a certainty."

**Swamp**, low-lying, soft, wet ground, a fresh-water bog.

**Swat**, hit, strike, smite.

**Sweater**, a woollen jacket, much worn in Canada during the winter both indoors and outdoors, and sometimes a somewhat gaudy article of wear.

**Switchman**, or **Switch-tender**, a railway pointsman. **Asleep at the switch**, a metaphor to suggest unwatchfulness or asleep on duty.

## T

**Tab**, keep tab on him, keep a watch on him, or dog his footsteps.

**Tabby party**, a gathering of women only. A party consisting entirely of men is termed a **stag party**.

**Talkee-talkee**, jargon, a corrupt dialect.

**Tall**. **A tall story**, one that is more imaginative than truthful.

**Tanglefoot**, whiskey. (See **Drink**).

**Tank**, a jag. **A tank on**, filled up with drink. (See **Jag**).

**Teach school** is how a Canadian school teacher describes his duties. A glance over the Canadian "Who's Who" shows that an enormous number of the enlightened men of the Dominion have **taught school** at some period of their lives.

**Team**, two or more horses, oxen or other beasts harnessed together and yoked in a wagon, sleigh, or other



vehicle. **Teamster**,—the man who drives a team. **Teaming**, driving a team or doing carting work.

**Teetotal**. About the beginning of last century a temperance society at Hector, New York, pledged themselves to abstain from distilled spirits only, but ten years later another pledge bound all signers to total abstinence, the two classes being distinguished by the initials O. P. (old pledge) and T. (total). T total thus became a familiar term, and it gradually took the word form of **teetotal**.

**Tenderfoot**, a word used in the wilder Far West to indicate a new-comer or greeny who does not readily adapt himself to Western manners and customs. Usually he is the butt and mark of the toughs and frolicsome old-timers.

**Ten-forty**, a five per cent. bond issued by the United States Government in 1864, during the Civil War, redeemable at any time after ten years and payable in forty years.

**Texas**, the upper deck of a Mississippi steamboat. **Texas-tender**, a waiter serving on the **texas**.

**There**, all complete, smart. **All there**, smart, has all his wits, nothing wanting. **Get there**, to achieve on object. Also to **Get there with both feet**. (See **Feet**).

**There's a reason**, a common remark and frequently the footnote to an advertisement. A notorious bum is known to be hanging round one of the boys, and **there's a reason**, viz., that the bum is on the borrow. The Empress Theatre is packed every night, and **there's a reason**, the excellence of the programme, of course. Stedman's boots are in great demand, and **there's a reason**, the reason being the high quality of the goods.

**Through**, done, finished. The word is used in the same sense as it is in some parts of Scotland. **I am through** with it, I've finished the job.

**Thug**, a murderous thief.

**Ticket**, the printed list of candidates in an election, the policy, the platform. **Straight ticket**, the party nominations. **Split ticket**, a divided policy, a ticket bearing names of candidates representing different interests. **Mixed ticket**, a list of names in which the interests of different parties have been blended.

**Tickle-brain**, strong drink.

**Ties**. What are known as railway sleepers in the Old-Country are called **ties** in Canada. No "chairs" are used, the rails being spiked direct to the ties.

**Tie-up**, a blockade, an obstruction, a stoppage of work or progress.

**Tightwad**, a miser, a stingy person.

**Time (Difference of)**. The difference between Canadian time and Greenwich or London time is as follows: Halifax, Nova Scotia, 4 hours 14 minutes; Montreal, 4 hrs. 54 mins.; Toronto, 5 hrs.; Winnipeg, 6 hrs. 28 mins.; Vancouver, B.C., 8 hrs. 12 mins. Thus, when it is midday in London it is 8.46 a.m. in Halifax, 7.6 a.m. at Montreal, 7 a.m. at Toronto, 5.32 a.m. at Winnipeg, and 3.48 a.m. at Vancouver.

**Time of my life**, another expressive phrase used when a person is telling of having had a good time.

**Timothy**, a useful fodder plant.

**Tinclad**, a musket-proof gunboat such as were used on the American rivers during the Civil War, the armour-plating of these being very light.

**Toadskin**, a dollar bill. Originally, in the States, a **toadskin** meant a five-cent stamp, and of a mean, grasping person it was said "His purse is made of toad's skin."

**Toboggan**, a long sled, curved back at the front, used in the sport of coasting down-hill. **Toboggan-slide**, the part of the hill on which the **tobogganning** is done.

**Tomahawk**, an Indian's war hatchet, which was used either at close quarters or thrown at an enemy, and with wonderful precision.

**Tombs (The)**, the New York city prison.

**Tom, Dick and Harry**, everybody and anybody.

**Toot**, a laudatory speech. **On a toot**, on a spree.

**Tooth-carpenter**, a dentist.

**Toothpick**, a very tall and thin person. Also jocularly spoken of as the last of the four courses of a boarding-house dinner, viz., soup, roast, pudding, and toothpick.

**Tort**, a wrong or injury remediable by an action for damages.

**Tote**. **Tote him round**, trot him round to see the sights.

**Touched**, tapped, borrowed, robbed. "He **touched** me for five dollars," he robbed me of five dollars."

**Tough**, hardened in the ways of the

world. **A tough**, a man who is not too scrupulous in his dealings with his fellow-men, or who is on the lookout for victims to fleece or maltreat. To **feel tough** is to feel fit and well. A **tough yarn** is an incredible story.

**Township**, a square piece of land containing thirty-six sections of about one square mile each. (See **Land**).

**Track**, the railroad, which in many parts of Western Canada is practically a public highway when there is not a convenient trail or public road. To **make tracks**, to go or run away. **Off the track**, out of one's reckoning, or on the wrong scent.

**Trade**, an exchange, or a swop. As a preliminary to some exchange of articles, a Canadian may say "I'll do a trade with you," or "I'll trade my clock (watch) for your gun (revolver)."

**Trail**, the rough, ill-defined roads of the West. The **Long Trail**, a long, cross-country trail. The **Long Trail**, or the **Lone Trail**, is sometimes, also, the journey beyond the grave.

**Trainmen**, the train crew, the men who work the railway train.

**Transportation**, carrying by rail or other means. "I've got my transportation" is what a Canadian will say when he has got his railway fare all right, all right.

**Trash**, a negro term of contempt.

**Treed**, hunters or belated travellers driven up a tree by wolves, bears, or other animals.

**Trek**, to move off, to seek new land. Of South African origin.

**Truck**, junk, rubbish. **Truck farm**, where miscellaneous kitchen garden produce is cultivated.

**Trusty**, a convict with special privileges and considerable freedom, as, for instance, being sent to do road or garden work beyond the penitentiary bounds.

**Turned down**, refused, not listened to. "The appeal was turned down cold." A person who has been snubbed or an unsuccessful applicant for a position or office is also said to have been **turned down**.

**Turpentine State**, North Carolina; the people are known as **Tarheels**.

**Twin Cities**, when spoken of in Canada, usually refer to Port Arthur and Fort William, neighboring cities and ports in Ontario, situated on Thunder Bay, Lake Superior.

**Twist on the shorts**, a Wall Street phrase, used when the shorts have undersold heavily, and the market has been artificially raised, causing them to sell at a heavy loss.

## U

**U.E.L.**, United Empire Loyalists, British subjects who remained loyal to the Crown when the American Colonies broke away. Many Canadians are now proud of their U. E. L. descent.

**Ugly**, nasty, spiteful. **Don't get ugly**, don't get nasty, don't get sore. **Ugliness**, ill-nature, perversity.

**Unbleached American**, a coloured native of the United States, a "gentleman of colour."

**Uncork**, to lay bare, expose to view; to tell the whole story.

**Uncle**, a familiar mode of address, varied sometimes by **Dad**.

**Uncle Sam**. (See **Sam**).

**Under**, out, dead, submerged in difficulties. (See **Down and out**).

**Under dog**, the man in trouble, the person who is being defeated, or who is having the worst of it in a dispute or a fight.

**Underground railway**, an American organisation of the old slavery days which assisted fugitive slaves to the free States and Canada.

**Under the weather**, may sometimes mean what the words actually imply, suffering from the effect of the weather; but usually it means that the individual is drinking or at home recovering from the effects of drink.

**Unicorn**, a team of horses, two wheelers abreast and a leader in front.

**Unload**, to sell stocks, shares or articles of merchandise that have been held in expectation of a rise in price.

**Up-a-daisy**, or **Ups-a-daisy**, the tender words of the fond father when engaged in baby-jumping.

**Up against it**, in a trying position, facing a difficult problem, at the last extremity. A Canadian is **up against it** when he has a big difficulty to surmount, some unpleasantness to face, or when he has reached the end of his resources.

**Upper ten**, originally applied to the wealthy classes of New York, but now in general use in all cities.

**Up-to-date**, the latest fashion in clothes, manners, or methods. The latest styles from New York, London, and Paris.

**Uptown**, the upper part of a town or city.

**Up to you**, depends on you, we look to you. "It is up to Mr. Borden to fulfil his election promises," "It is up to the C.P.R. to give a better car service." "It is up to the night watchman to see that no more hoboes frequent the premises," "It is up to the Caledonian Society to provide a fitting welcome for the Scottish curlers," are extracts from a newspaper, which all show how the words are used.

**Use. No use for him** is an expression used in reference to an undesirable person, an incompetent workman, or anything under discussion. "I have no use for him, and so have cut him out."

## V

**V**, five dollars or a five-dollar bill.

**Vagrant**, commonly called a **Vag**, one who has no visible means of subsistence. When a man is arrested as a vag, he must either go to prison or hike out of the town.

**Valley tan**, a special distillation of whiskey sold in Utah.

**Vamoose**, or **Vamose**, to decamp, to clear out quickly. Also **vamoosed** and **vamoosing**. **Vamoose the ranch**, get off the ranch.

**Vancouver**, the commercial metropolis of British Columbia and the mainland terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Incorporated in 1886, it is the largest centre of population in British Columbia, has fine streets, and magnificent buildings that vie with the best in older Canadian cities.

**Varsity**, university; a word first used at Oxford, but now in general use in Canada and the States.

**Velocipede**, the three-wheeled bogle on which section-men and linemen move up and down the railway on repairing expeditions. The propelling rod attached to the axle is worked by hand in much the same fashion as a pump, and the little vehicle is simply hitched off the line on the approach of a train.

**Venireman**, citizen summoned to serve as a juror. In the States, many are called, but few are chosen, the contending lawyers in all important trials finding great sport in the challenging process, which appears to be a combined effort to prove that not one in the whole bunch is

eligible to serve. The word appears in the Canadian newspapers, but is not in use in the Dominion courts—only in the United States courts.

**Veterans** who have seen active service in defence of Canada and the Empire are enrolled in the Imperial Veterans' Association of Canada.

**Victoria**, the seat of Government and the capital of British Columbia, is situated on the south-east of Vancouver Island. The Parliament Building, overlooking James Bay, is one of the finest examples of architecture in America.

**Victoria Day**, May 24, a Dominion holiday.

**Viewpoint**, a point of view.

**Vigilance committee**, a body of men self-constituted for the purpose of protecting the public interests and administering justice in districts where the recognised authorities appeared to be powerless to cope with disorders. **Vigilant**, a member of such a committee. (See **Lynch**).

**Village drunk**. (See **Drunk**).

**Virginia fence**, a zig-zag rail fence.

## W

**Wad**. (See **Roll** and **Tightwad**).

**Wander-lust**, the irresistible impulse to keep on the move and see as much of the Dominion (or the world) as possible in life's brief span; sometimes due to the call of the wild. There are many men in the West afflicted with this disease. They usually can adapt themselves to any old job, but only hold it down long enough to earn the money which will carry them on to the next city on which they have cast longing eyes.

**War-paint**, the extra special adornments of the Indians when on the warpath.

**Warpath**. When the Indians dug up the hatchet and sallied forth to seek the scalps of their enemies, they were said to be on the warpath.

**Washout**, a piece of railway track carried away by heavy rains or flood.

**Water wagon**. When a person has become teetotal, or cut out the drink, he is said to be on the water wagon. But there's a mighty splash when they fall off.

**Web-foot State**, Oregon.

**Well-in**, well-off, well-to-do; also familiar or in close friendship with a person.



**West-pointer**, a student or graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

**Wet**, the condition of a town which has successfully opposed the Prohibition Law and where drink is still sold. (See **Dry**).

**Whaler**. (See **Sundowner**).

**What do you know?** a common salutation meaning "Anything new?" or "What news?" **What do you know about that?** what do you think of that? After displaying a piece of work or some article, or after relating some adventure, a Canadian will say, "What do you know about that? It is, however, merely an exclamation, and not an inquiry.

**Wheeler**, a horse driven in shafts, or next to the wheels; **off-wheeler**, a horse driven on the right-hand side; **near-wheeler**, the horse on the left-hand side.

**Wheels in his head** is said in reference to a man of weak intellect or whose head is full of hallucinations.

**Whiskers**, a jocular salutation, as **Hello, Whiskers!**

**White**, straight, honest. **He's white** signifies that the person referred to may be trusted as a brother.

**White House**, the official residence of the President of the United States, at Washington, so called from its colour. It is officially known, however, as the Executive Mansion.

**Whopper**, anything very large, fine, good; also a big lie.

**Wigwam**, an Indian's habitation, usually a tent.

**Wild-cat**, reckless, hazardous. A Michigan bank which collapsed had a panther, or wild-cat, engraved on its notes, and banking institutions of an unsound character were afterwards known as wild-cat investments.

**Wild farm**, a farm where cultivation has not been begun and where no houses have been erected. (See **Improved farm**).

**Windrow**, a row of hay set up loosely to permit of quick drying.

**Winnipeg**, the capital of Manitoba and the commercial metropolis of Western Canada. A short distance north of Fort Garry, the trading post and settlers' depot at the junction of the

Red River and the Assiniboine, the first house on the plain was erected about the year 1860, and to the hamlet rising there was given the name of the great Manitoban lake, viz., Winnipeg, a name derived from the Cree Indian words, **Win**, murky, and **nipiy**, water, referring to the contrast between its water and that of the transparent lakes to the east. For ten years the hamlet grew, though very slowly, since it was more than four hundred miles from St. Paul, the nearest town in Minnesota to the south. In 1870, the first census of Winnipeg was taken, and showed 213 persons in the village. Eleven years afterwards, in 1881, there were 7985 people, and Winnipeg had been an incorporated city since 1874. In 1891, the population was 27,068, and in 1901 it had grown to 44,778. During the five succeeding years, the city practically doubled its population, and it has proceeded at the same rate ever since, though the manner in which the 1911 census was taken does not permit of any very accurate estimate.

**Work-house**. None in Canada. (See **Pauper**).

**Wolverines**, people from the State of Michigan.

**Won out**, the expression to indicate a win, as "the local man **won out** in all events he entered for." The Old-Country way of expressing it, except that the Canadian adds the word "out."

**Wreck**, the word to apply to a railway accident; or, more correctly, **train wreck**.

## Y

**Yah** (spoken with a drawl) and **Yep** (uttered sharply), are words meaning **Yes**.

**Yahoo**, a lout from the back-country, an ignoramus, a know-nothing.

**Yankee**, a native of the United States; more correctly, a citizen of that portion of the States known as New England.

**Yeggman**, a thieving tramp, a burglar.

**You bet**, certainly, to be sure, you may depend on it. (See **Bet**).

**You have me beat**. (See **Search me**).



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